

## HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS OFFERS LOW COST, DURABLE EQUINE LIABILITY WARNING SIGNS

It is the law. Every equine professional shall post and maintain signs that contain the warning notice specified in the Equine Activity Liability Act, PA 89-111, effective in Illinois since 1995.

Such signs must be posted conspicuously wherever equine activity is taking place – lessons, rentals, rides, etc.

“WARNING. Under the Equine Activity Liability Act, each participant who engages in an equine activity expressly assumes the risks of engaging in and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from the risk of equine activities.”

HCI has printed this language in bold black type on painted white aluminum signs to save owners the time and expense of producing such compliant signs on their own. For \$12 per sign, plus \$8 shipping and handling, HCI members can purchase 1 to 4 of these signs. Non-members may buy the signs for \$20 each. Discounts are available for larger quantity orders.

If you wish to order signs, send your check to Horsemen's Council of Illinois, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62703, or phone (217) 529-6503. If you are not a member and would like to join for this and many other benefits, see the membership application form in this issue of the *Courier*.

HCI successfully campaigned for passage of this legislation, written for the protection of horsemen. Its language is clear and direct and known painfully well by many of us who have experienced the inherent dangers of dealing with large animals. Not that we don't love and respect our horses, but that we all see ourselves (or those in our care) facing these situations enumerated in the law:

“Risk of engaging in equine activities means those dangers of conditions that are an integral part of equine activities, including, but not limited to (1) the propensity of an equine to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm, or death to persons on or around them, (2) the unpredictability of an equine's reaction to sounds, sudden movement, and unfamiliar objects, persons, other animals, or other things, (3) certain hazards such as surface and subsurface conditions, (4) collisions with other equines or objects, and (5) the potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to the participant or others, such as failing to maintain control over the animal or not acting within his or her ability.