

Innkeepers Lien Act (770 ILCS 40) – Stable keepers and any other persons shall have a lien upon the horses, carriages and harness kept by them for the proper charges due for the keeping thereof and expenses bestowed thereon at the request of the owner or person having possession thereof.

Horseshoers Lien Act (770 ILCS 30) – Establishes lien rights for payment.

Illinois Highway Code (605 ILCS 5/9 124.1) – It is unlawful to tether or turn loose any horses or other livestock on public highways for the purpose of feeding or grazing.

Horse Road Rights (625 ILCS 5/11-206) – Traffic laws apply to persons riding animals or driving animal-drawn vehicles. Every person riding an animal or driving any animal-drawn vehicle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except those provisions of which by their very nature can have no application. Exceptions are limited access highways and most expressways. Here are points for vehicle operators to keep in mind when sharing the road with a horseback rider:

- LANE USAGE: Horseback riders must ride with traffic and as far to the right as possible.
- SUDDEN NOISES: Never sound a horn when you are near a horse. The sound may frighten it and cause an accident.
- APPROACH: When meeting or passing a horseback rider, do so with caution and be prepared to stop.

Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act (745 ILCS 65) – Encourages owners of land to make land and water areas available to the public for recreational or conservation purposes by limiting their liability toward persons entering thereon for such purposes.

Use and Enjoyment of Rest Areas (Illinois Administrative Code (I.A.C.) Title 92, Ch. 1, Sub. Ch. F, pt. 533) – Provides that horses are not to be removed from their vehicles for the purpose of grazing, drinking, or exercising.

You may view the complete text of Illinois Compiled Statutes and Public Acts by going to the Illinois General Assembly web site www.ilga.gov and clicking on "Illinois Compiled Statutes." The site also provides a "guide" to the difference between statutes and acts and how to find them on the site. Further, the site allows you to read bills submitted to the current General Assembly.

For pending legislation specific to horses and to express your opinion on it, you may go to www.HorsemensCouncil.org and click on "Legislation" in the index near the top of the home page. Horsemen's Council of Illinois provides special email alerts as a member benefit and uses its CapWiz™ lobbying tool to speak for Illinois' \$3.8 billion diverse equine industry and its 77,000 horse owners and 213,000 horses.

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www.HorsemensCouncil.org

or contact us at:



Laws Affecting Horses in Illinois



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Important – *This compilation is intended to provide a basic overview of most laws in the state of Illinois that affect horses and horse ownership. It is presented as the interpretation of these laws by the Horsemen’s Council of Illinois and is not to be considered exhaustive or to offer legal advice or counsel. Legal questions should be discussed with a qualified attorney.*

The Illinois Department of Agriculture - Enforces animal related regulations, inspects most animal-related businesses and responds to complaints such as inhumane treatment of animals, improper disposal of dead animals and animals running at large.

Illinois Agriculture Protection Act (740 ILCS 70) – Reduces the loss to the State of its agricultural resources by limiting the circumstances under which farming operations may be deemed to be a nuisance.

Animal Welfare Act (225 ILCS 605) – Covers inspection and ensures compliance with animal health regulations

Animal Control Act (510 ILCS 5) – Establishes regulations for keeping dogs or other animals, including horses, from straying off their owner’s property and seeks to curb vicious dog attacks. Permits any owner seeing his or her horses being injured, wounded or killed by a dog which is not accompanied by, or under the supervision of, its owner, to kill such dog. The owner or keeper of the dog is liable for all damages caused by the dog pursuing, chasing, worrying, injuring or killing any equine.

(510 ILCS 5/16) – ...if a dog or other animal, including a horse, without provocation, attacks or injures someone who is peaceably conducting himself in any place where he may lawfully be, the owner or keeper of such dog or other animal is liable in damages to such person for the full amount of the injury sustained.

Humane Care for Animals Act (510 ILCS 70) – Designed to ensure that owners of all animals must provide proper water, food and shelter for their animals. Establishes humane investigators and protections for animals used in police work. Prohibits transportation of lame or disabled horses except for medical treatment or diagnosis. Outlaws horse poling and tripping. The Illinois Department of Agriculture responds to legitimate complaints from citizens of suspected mistreatment or neglect of animals.

Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004 (225 ILCS 115) – Establishes standards for accreditation and licensing of veterinarians. Permits a livestock owner, or that owner’s employee or agent, to care for and perform ordinary and customary animal husbandry and livestock management practices and training.

Diseased Animals Act (510 ILCS 50) – Requires the use of reasonable means to prevent the spread of any contagious or infectious disease. Prohibits any animal known to have died of, or been slaughtered on account of, any contagious or infectious disease to be conveyed on public highways or grounds.

Illinois Livestock Auction Market Law (225 ILCS 65) – Promotes and provides legal enforcement of programs aimed at controlling the spread of equine infectious anemia, reducing the risk of infecting horses in the State, and proves measures for controlling the movement of infected animals with the intention of benefitting the equine industry.

Equine Infectious Anemia Control Act (510 ILCS 65) – In compliance with federal law, all equine over 12 months of age entering the state for any reason or participating in an advertised equine event must be accompanied by a negative official test for EIA dated within the past year. Equine entering the state must also have a certificate of veterinary inspection within 30 days prior to entry.

Livestock Entry Permits (Under Authority of Diseased Animals Act – 510 ILCS 50) – Assigns a number to the required certificate of veterinary inspection for horses entering Illinois for any reason.

All equine entering Illinois for any reason other than slaughter must be accompanied by a negative test for EIA conducted within a year if the animal is more than one year of age, certified by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of entry, and an entry permit number issued by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Animals passing through Illinois and not being unloaded in the state are not required to obtain an entry permit number or meet Illinois entry requirements. These animals are required to meet the entry requirements for the state of destination only.

Horse Mutilation Act (720 ILCS 315) – Prohibits tail cutting or docking

Dead Animal Disposal Act (225 ILCS 610) – Any person caring for an animal which has died, or been euthanized, shall not allow the carcass to lie about the premises. Carcasses, or body parts, must be properly disposed of within 24 hours as prescribed by regulations of the Department of Agriculture.

Brand Act (510 ILCS 40) – Any person having livestock in this State has the right to properly record and adopt a brand for his or her exclusive use in identifying such livestock.

Domestic Animals Running at Large Act (510 ILCS 55) – No person or owner of livestock shall allow livestock to run at large. All owners of livestock shall use reasonable care to provide the necessary restraints to prevent running at large or be liable for damages caused.

Livestock Management Facilities Act (510 ILCS 77) – Creates a permitting program for animal feeding operations, livestock shelters and on-farm milking parlors. Not subject to this act are livestock management facilities at educational institutions, livestock pasture operations, county and state fairs, race tracks, horse breeding and foaling farms and market holding facilities.

Equine Activity Liability Act (745 ILCS 47) – Establishes that 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.

Fence Act (765 ILCS 130) – Fences four and one-half feet (4 ½’) high, in good repair and sufficient enough to keep horses or other stock from getting on adjoining lands shall be deemed legal fences. Additional requirements may vary by township. Adjoining property owners may be responsible for a just proportion of the cost of construction and share in the responsibility for maintenance of division fences between them.

Animal Registration Under False Pretenses Act (720 ILCS 210) – Prohibits obtaining from any club, association, society or company a false certificate of registration or a transfer of registration, or knowingly giving a false pedigree of any animal.

Stallion and Jack Pedigree Act (720 ILCS 355) – Prohibits the misrepresentation of the pedigree or breeding of any stallion or jack kept for public service.

Stallion and Jack Service Lien Act (770 ILCS 100) – Every owner of any stallion or jack kept for public service shall have a lien upon any mare or jennet serviced at the request of its owner or authorized agent for payment of the service fee. The lien may also extend to the progeny of the mare of jennet.