



PONY RIDES / PETTING ZOOS DEPARTMENT POLICY

PURPOSE:

To allow enjoyable equine and animal opportunities in St. Louis County Parks while assuring a safe and lawful experience.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation to permit pony rides and/or petting zoos as part of an approved special event or as a pre-approved service contracted by a shelter reservation permit holder as part of a picnic or party within designated parks.

PROCEDURE:

Administration

1. The Department neither provides pony rides/petting zoos nor is under concession contract with a vendor. When pony rides are desired for Department sponsored events, individual contracts must be entered into with approved vendors. If the Department does contract for pony rides/petting zoos at special events, additional insurance requirements must be met and are available from the Insurance Office of the Division of Purchasing.
2. Pony rides and petting zoos are permitted as a special condition of a shelter reservation in designated parks. The presence of ponies and/or petting zoo should be indicated on the reservation. Use of this service is restricted to the group covered by the reservation. Only St. Louis County Park pre-approved vendors will be allowed to conduct pony rides and/or petting zoos. Additional insurance requirements may be required. See vendor list at:
<http://www.stlouisco.com/Portals/8/docs/Document%20Library/parks/PDFs/CorporatePicnics/PonyrideVendorList.pdf>
3. The Department will provide a Pony Ride/Petting Zoo Authorization certificate for the reservation holder, vendor and Department liaison to sign. The completed certificate must be returned to St. Louis County Parks three business days prior to the reservation. If this is not completed, the pony ride/petting zoo special use permit will be voided.
4. The Department will provide Equine and Livestock Activity Warning signage in parks where pony rides and petting zoos are approved.

Rules - Reservation Holder Requirements

1. Reservation holders must request permission for a pony ride or petting zoo within 10 days of the reservation. Pony rides/petting zoos are only allowed for shelter reservations within designated parks.
2. Reservation holders must return the completed Pony Ride/Petting Zoo Authorization Certificate to St. Louis County Parks within 3 business days of the reservation.

Rules - Park Requirements

1. Riding areas will be approved by Park staff. Routes should vary to minimize impact on lawns. Ponies and petting zoos should not be within 100 feet of shelters or other public use facilities. Park Rangers and maintenance personnel will be notified Pony rides and petting zoos are happening in parks.
2. When not being used, animals are to be confined and supervised in an area not readily accessible to the public. This site will be determined by Park staff. Staff will also designate areas for the parking of vendor vehicles and equipment.
3. The Department reserves the right to restrict the use of specific animals based on their apparent medical or behavioral observations or general physical appearance.
4. The Department reserves the right to suspend a pony ride/petting zoo reservation due to weather conditions that would unduly damage grass/turf areas or endanger park users.

Rules -Vendor Requirements

1. Vendors must post approved Equine and Livestock Activity Warning Signs in close proximity to the riding/petting area. Signs must be minimum 1 inch black letters on a white background. Signs must say, "WARNING Under Missouri Law, An Equine Activity Sponsor, An Equine Professional, A Livestock Activity Sponsor, A Livestock Owner, A Livestock Facility, A Livestock Auction Market, or Any Employee Thereof Is Not Liable For An Injury To Or The Death Of A Participant In Equine Or Livestock Activities Resulting From the Inherent Risks Of Equine Or Livestock Activities Pursuant To The Revised Statutes of Missouri."
2. Vendors must be on the St. Louis County Parks approved vendor list and they must carry general liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1 million per occurrence and name St. Louis County as Additional Insured.
3. Carousel devices are not permitted.
4. The vendor is responsible for clean- up of the area, including animal droppings.
5. At least two (2) employees must be on duty to supervise each (six (6) ponies used. At least one (1) employee must be 21 years of age or older and at least one (1) employee must be experienced in handling animals.
6. No partially trained animals may be used. Animals which have developed bad habits such as biting, kicking, running away, balking or rearing up may not be used.
7. Animals must have current immunizations. Proper shot documentation must be carried and provided if asked. Ponies must have properly trimmed hooves and saddle girths must be checked for snugness several times a day.
8. Spotters must walk at the side of small children and riders with disabilities. No child under the age of two (2) year old or without adequate muscle coordination may be allowed to ride. Spotters may not be parents or guardians. Children should hold on the saddle horn.

9. The health and welfare of the animals is a priority. Excessive heat or cold, available shade, work load, access to water and other stress related conditions will be monitored by St. Louis County Park staff.

10. Failure of a vendor to adhere to any of the rules listed above may result in removal from the park.

Approved Pony Ride/Petting Zoo Park Sites

- Cliff Cave
- Creve Coeur - Branwood Corporate Picnic Site
- Greensfelder
- Faust
- Queeny
- Sioux Passage
- Suson
- Spanish Lake
- Tilles

Effective Date: 09/91

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RevisionDate: 03/10

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