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Leone Equestrian Law LLC

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Donating Your Horse to a College Riding Program: What to Consider

By Armand Leone, Leone Equestrian Law

Q: I'm no longer able to ride and show my horse regularly, so I'd like to donate my horse to a college riding program. Is there anything that I need to consider before doing this?

A: Good question, and there are a number of things that need consideration. The first thing that always comes to mind for me as the most important is: what happens to the horse when it's finished its usefulness as a riding horse? Does it go to the vet school for experimental purposes? Do they have acreage out there where they can turn it out?

But let's backtrack a bit and work our way to that question!

First, consider how well you know the college's riding program and if your horse is a suitable fit for that program. If it's your own alma mater, you're likely familiar with the quality of care of the horses and how they are used, but if not, it's a good idea to ask questions about how the horse will be used. You also should be realistic about your horse's abilities to do well in that program. For instance, is the horse tolerant of numerous riders? If the horse generally needs a large amount of turnout, can the program facilitate that?

Next, find out the requirements for donation for the school. If it's a university with a highly successful riding program that accepts donated horses on a regular basis, the school likely has a donation application and screening process in place. Here's one example from the University of Findlay.

All colleges will require some form of paperwork, and many may request that the

horse be appraised by a certified equine appraiser as part of that paperwork and application process. When hiring an appraiser, be sure to ask around for reliable references and find someone with experience with your style of riding and type of horse, as they will be basing the appraisal on factors such as the fair market value for your type of horse, the horse's show record, and its behavior and conformation.

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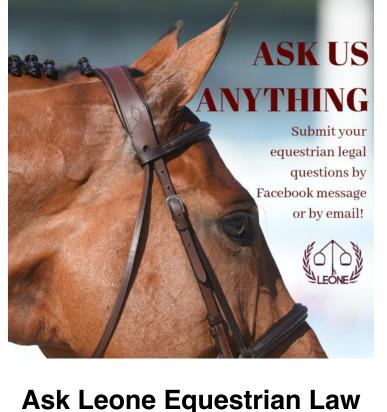


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