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## **DOG POLICY**

Dogs are welcome at NATRC events with our riders and volunteers; however due to the nature of our sport and the liability that exists around animals, the following regulations must be followed at all NATRC events to ensure the safest possible environment for all participants.

### **A. AREA RESTRICTIONS**

Dogs are not allowed in any area that is designated as a management or official event area. This is defined as an area where group gatherings, ride meetings, group meals, or check-ins occur; or official event locations such as judging sites or pulse and respiration check points. This applies to dogs belonging to management, judges, volunteers, riders and anyone associated, traveling or camping with said parties. Please note some venues where rides are held may have their own policy regarding dogs that may be more restrictive, and that must be followed in addition to our policy. Ride management must notify participants accordingly.

### **B. CONTAINMENT AND LEASHING**

Dogs must be contained or leashed at all times at an NATRC event with no exceptions. This includes at the owner's camp or while walking the dog in *or* out of camp.

### **C. SERVICE ANIMALS**

#### **1. In Camp**

Service animals are trained to do certain tasks for a person with a disability and are welcome to accompany participants in our sport with some limitations. *Emotional support animals do not qualify as service animals under the ADA and are not considered as exceptions in this policy.* A service vest is requested for identification purposes only when the dog accompanies the participant into what is designated as a restricted management or meeting area. The dog should be handled by the individual with the disability or a third party who accompanies the individual with the disability and not be handled by others in restricted areas. It is the handler's responsibility to maintain complete control of the service animal at all times. Regardless of service animal designation, if the dog is disruptive, unruly or aggressive in any way, management reserves the right to have the handler remove the dog from the otherwise animal restricted area or premises in general.

#### **2. On the Trail**

Due to the competitive nature of our sport and equine prey animal behavior, service animals and dogs in general are not allowed on the trail or in proximity to horses in competition or safety riding. This includes, but is not limited to, judging locations and pulse and respiration check points to protect the safety and well-being of all participants.

### **D. PENALTY**

Violations of the policy will be addressed by management directly. Repeated violations may result in revocation of a participant's right to bring the dog to future events. In order to protect other participants, animals and property, as well as the liability of ride management, a dog displaying aggressive behavior towards others will be asked to leave the premises and will be restricted from accompanying a participant to future events.