



## LEONE EQUESTRIAN LAW LLC

201-444-1644  
info@equestriancounsel.com



### Four Steps To Future-Proof Your Partner: Estate Planning for Horse Owners

By Armand Leone and and Jessica E. Choper

Horse owners are dedicated to their equine partners, often making personal sacrifices to ensure their horses are well cared for by veterinarians, farriers, and trainers. Horses are pampered with warm blankets, massages, and routine training and exercise. Regardless of the equine discipline, most owners put their horses first, before themselves, devoting enormous sums of money to horse care and substantial amounts of personal time to fostering their partnership.



Owners can ensure their horses are taken care of in the event of their death by planning ahead and taking a few specific steps now. **Photo by iStock**

Yet many owners have not planned for their horse's future in case they can no longer provide care. Peace of mind can be achieved with minimal planning if owners consider a few important factors about what should happen to their horses after their death. Here are four steps all horse owners should think about.

1. **Consult an Attorney**
2. **Define Realistic Goals**
3. **Consider the Horse and Potential Options**
4. **Financial and Practical Considerations**

Financial needs are inextricably linked to any planning for a horse's future care. An owner should consider all potential costs involved in achieving their goals for the horse and whether it is feasible to meet these needs. The decision of whether it is realistic to maintain a horse after the owner's death or if the horse must be sold may depend on the owner's financial situation and their ability to provide lifelong care for the horse. The owner's financial profile will likely dictate the nature of the planning of what can be done after their passing.

If you have concerns about your horse's future and well-being, clarify your goals and discuss viable options with family, friends, and trainers. Consult an attorney who can meet your needs to determine if a plan can be developed to give you the necessary assurance in case you predecease your horse. Leone Equestrian Law LLC can advise you and help you prepare and review relevant documents. To see the full range of services, visit <https://equestriancounsel.com/>.

[Read the Full Article on Chronicle of the Horse](#)

### Peacock Stirrup Ban

I want to personally thank the US Equestrian (USEF) for banning equipment that can injure riders during dismounts as part of its latest round of rule changes. I'm referring specifically to safety stirrups that have an upward metal protrusion, generally known as peacock stirrups. They have a history of catching on riders' clothes and, more rarely, can cause injury when the hook goes through the breeches and rips the skin of the groin area.



The use of peacock stirrups will be prohibited in USEF competitions beginning December 1, 2025. **Photo by Jump Media**

I am glad the USEF has taken steps that will help prevent these injuries, some of which have been horrific. Disallowing these stirrups and other unsafe equipment at horse shows is an essential step toward educating the riding community about these dangers. Starting later this year, the use of peacock stirrups at USEF competitions will be prohibited.

#### The rule change reads:

*Beginning December 1, 2025, saddle attachments with rigid upward projection that may catch a rider's clothing will be prohibited (e.g., peacock stirrups).*

In the meantime, if you or anyone you know is still using peacock stirrups, please alert them to the dangers they pose. In addition to proper riding footwear and unlocked stirrup bars, there are safe alternative stirrup designs that protect against a foot becoming stuck in a stirrup after a fall. Together, we can keep working to make riding safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

—Armand

[Read Armand Leone's Original Article on Peacock Stirrups](#)

For advice and counsel related to the equestrian industry, contact Leone Equestrian Law at [info@equestriancounsel.com](mailto:info@equestriancounsel.com).

Led by Armand Leone, Jr., MD, JD, MBA, Leone Equestrian Law LLC provides legal services and consultation for equestrian professionals ranging from riders and trainers to owners and show managers in the FEI disciplines on a wide variety of issues.

Visit us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [www.equestriancounsel.com](http://www.equestriancounsel.com) to learn more.

175 Rock Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 - 201.444.1644