

# MARKEL INSURANCE

## Insurance for horses and horse-related businesses.

**M**arkel has over 50 years of expertise in insuring horses and horse-related businesses. We are a licensed and admitted carrier approved to do business in all 50 states insuring the broadest of equestrian risks. Since 1993, Markel has partnered with NRHA to provide you with the most comprehensive and affordable horse insurance products in the market.

Many of Markel's horse insurance specialists and underwriters are horse owners themselves. We know owning a horse is both an emotional and a financial commitment. We are literally at the shows and in the barns and on the farms. As the insurance company with horse sense, we live and know the questions and concerns and claims that occur in this industry. Questions we can answer to help you better understand coverages, to help reduce risks, and to protect your horses/horse-related business. Questions such as:

### General liability horse insurance – Who needs it? Why and when?

**Q:** I run a training and boarding business from my barn, and also give lessons to non-boarders. What type of coverage is general liability horse insurance and do I need to be fully protected?

**A:** As part of your insurance risk management plan, you do need general liability horse insurance. Sometimes referred to as general liability, or Markel's Commercial Equine Liability, it is protection that covers you and/or your business, in the event you are negligent and cause personal injury, bodily injury or property damage to others. Consider the following:

#### 1. Why do I need this?

Others can make claims or sue you, whether or not their claims are valid! General liability coverage offers payment of defense costs when potentially covered allegations are made.

#### 2. Are horses considered property?

In most states, horses ARE considered property, and since you board horses you don't own, you should have care, custody and control coverage. Make sure you have sufficient liability limits to cover the value of the horses you board (these are often on a per horse basis).

#### 3. Do boarders have to have their own insurance?

Ideally, boarders would have their own horses covered for any urgent need for care (major medical, surgical, and mortality). Boarders should have their own insurance that covers their tack.



#### 4. Is my boarding contract adequate?

You should be able to answer "YES" to all of these. Is your contract:

- Clear and unambiguous?
- Reviewed together so that each party understands their responsibilities and questions and clarification can occur?
- Signed immediately upon arrival of a new boarder? Renewed every year?

There are several types of insurance that may come into play in this scenario – and many more questions you should be asking and considering, such as: property details related to limits, leases, additional insureds, outside trainers, and shows/events at your facility.

### Property insurance – Who needs it? Why and when?

**Q:** I own a farm and need to protect my home, barn and outbuildings, as well as my boarding and breeding operations. What type of coverages do I need to be fully protected?

**A:** Realize that first party property insurance (outlined below), also known as Markel's Horse Farm Package, covers property



that belongs to you, or for which you have an “insurable interest”. Ask/consider the following:

#### 1. Do you own the barn/property?

If yes, make sure it is fully insured (includes home, barn, arena, outbuildings, personal property inside each building).

#### 2. What property limits of insurance are needed?

- Consider cost to rebuild the structures.
- List personal property in each structure (household personal property and business personal property are NOT treated the same).
- Consider separately scheduling items of significant value and farm machinery and equipment.

#### 3. Do you lease your barn from another person?

- Review your lease carefully for insurance obligations!
- Do you carry the insurance? If so, is a limit stated? Do you have to carry general liability as well as property? Do you have to name the property owner as an additional insured on the policy?
- You want to be fully compliant – or risk breach of contract.

#### 4. Who else uses your facility?

In order to fully protect your business, you must make sure any outside trainers teaching lessons from your barn have their own liability coverage that would address injuries sustained by their students.

- They should name you/your business as an Additional Insured on their policies so you are protected from their independent negligence.
- If you hold shows or similar events on your property, discuss this with your insurance agent – as you may need to obtain special coverage.
- If you don't own the property, you may need to add the facility owner and/or sponsor as an Additional Insured on your policy.

#### When to call your insurance company

**Q:** My horse is lame after competing in a horse show this weekend; do I need to contact my insurance company? How will my coverage be affected?

**A:** Horses are an investment and coverages are available to protect your investment. It is a standard condition of all equine mortality and medical/surgical policies that the insurer be notified in the event of any illness, disease, lameness, injury, accident, or physical disability of the horse.

Many people worry reporting an injury/illness will affect coverage, when the opposite can happen. Minor treatments can lead to more serious and sometimes life-threatening conditions, so do not hesitate to contact your carrier. Horses frequently recover from minor lameness, injury, or illness within the policy period. Additional information is often requested at renewal and no exclusion may apply.

#### Things to remember:

- Markel Claims is only a phone call away, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- The sooner the insurer gets the information, the better we can serve you.
- Always report pre-existing conditions and understand their impact on your policy.\*
- Immediately report any accidents/sicknesses/injuries/deaths.
- Contact your insurer for permission prior to any surgical procedures and prior to euthanasia.
- Make arrangements for a necropsy.
- Call the police immediately in case of theft/shooting/vehicular involvement.
- Bring these procedures and phone numbers to the attention of anyone having care, custody and control of your horse.
- Your claims examiner will guide you through the claims process, explain your coverage, and help you fully understand your policy benefits.

*\*Pre-existing conditions are injuries or sicknesses that your horse has had in the past. These conditions may be excluded on the policy; however, the underwriter may decide not to exclude a condition depending on the severity of the sickness or injury.*

*Are you interested in reading more articles on other topics and issues related to horse and farm insurance?*

- How prepared are you for a severe weather catastrophe?
- What is equipment or mechanical breakdown coverage?
- Fire safety for barns – are you prepared?
- Common Q&A's about care, custody and control insurance coverage
- Common Q&A's about insuring a foal
- Facilities and disease control
- Transporting your horse

*What questions do you have?*

For more articles, or information on Markel's products, or to email a question or request a quote, visit [reininghorseinsurance.com](http://reininghorseinsurance.com) or call Frank Costantini, Director of Western Disciplines at 800-314-0077.

