



Horses of Hope, Inc.

"Giving Hope One Individual at a Time"

DOWN SYNDROME X-RAY FORM

Dear Participant, Parent, or Guardian,

There is a condition known as Atlanto-Axial dislocation or subluxation that may be present in some individuals with Down syndrome.

Parents or Guardians of children, or participants with Down Syndrome, who seek to participate in horseback riding with Horses of Hope, Inc., must be made aware of this condition known as Atlanto-Axial dislocation or subluxation, which can occur in 10-20 percent of individuals with Down syndrome. The two vertebrae at the top of the spinal column are named the atlas and axis, respectively. In some persons with Down syndrome, the ligaments and bone structures that normally maintain the proper position of these vertebrae with respect to each other and the skull are abnormal. Under certain conditions of physical stress, the abnormality permits the spinal column to shift, which pinches the nerves at the base of the brain, leading to severe consequences.

Because of this possibility, Horses of Hope, Inc. wishes to protect persons with Down syndrome from activities such as horseback riding which could aggravate this condition until their doctor has examined them. The doctor will determine if the condition is present by an examination that requires an X-ray view of the neck when it is both flexed and extended. If the X-rays demonstrate that the Atlanto-Axial dislocation or subluxation is present, the person with Down syndrome may not participate in horseback riding.

***Cervical radiograph for Atlanto-Axial subluxation:**

Positive ____ **Negative** ____

Date of Radiograph: _____

Physician's Signature

Date

Physician's Printed Name & Title (MD or DO)

Phone

If Atlanto-Axial dislocation or subluxation is not present in individual with Down syndrome, the individual may participate in the Horses of Hope, Inc. Program.

Sincerely,

Horses of Hope, Inc.

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