



The National Agricultural Law Center

nationalaglawcenter.org | nataglaw@uark.edu | [@nataglaw](https://twitter.com/nataglaw)

States' Equine Activity Statutes:

Connecticut



This material is based upon work supported by the National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

A National Agricultural Law Center Research Publication

States' Equine Activity Statutes: Connecticut

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 23-10d
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 23-10e
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-557p
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-557s

Current with legislation from the 2024 Regular and Special Sessions.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 23-10d. Equine Advisory Council.

There is established an Equine Advisory Council which shall assist the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to study the issue of preservation of equine trails in the state. The council shall consist of the president of the Connecticut Horse Council and six representatives from an organization that serves the horse industry in the state:

- (1) One of whom shall reside in the first congressional district, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
- (2) one of whom shall reside in the second congressional district, appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate,
- (3) one of whom shall reside in the third congressional district, appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives,
- (4) one of whom shall reside in the fourth congressional district, appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives,
- (5) one of whom shall reside in the fifth congressional district, appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, and
- (6) one of whom shall also be a member of the Connecticut Forests and Parks Association, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate. All appointments to the council shall be made not later than thirty days after May 22, 2007. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. The members of the council shall elect a chairperson of the council from among the members of the council. Such chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later than sixty days after May 22, 2007. Members of the council shall not be compensated for their services.



Conn. Gen. Stat. § 23-10e. Equestrian use on multiuse trails on state park and forest lands. Nonequine use of trails. Temporary closing of multiuse trails.

(a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall permit equestrian use on multiuse trails on state park and forest lands, unless specifically prohibited by said commissioner. Prior to a decision to prohibit equine use of any multiuse trail on state park and forest lands that have historically been utilized by equestrians, said commissioner shall consult with the Equine Advisory Council established pursuant to section 23-10d.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit nonequine uses by the public of the trails specified in subsection (a) of this section nor prohibit the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection from temporarily closing any multiuse trail for safety reasons or the protection of natural resources.

(c) The permitting of equestrian use on a multiuse trail by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall not be deemed an expansion of such trail.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-557p. (Formerly Sec. 52-577p). Assumption of risk by person engaged in recreational equestrian activities, when.

Each person engaged in recreational equestrian activities shall assume the risk and legal responsibility for any injury to his person or property arising out of the hazards inherent in equestrian sports, unless the injury was proximately caused by the negligence of the person providing the horse or horses to the individual engaged in recreational equestrian activities or the failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use, structure or activity by the person providing the horse or horses or his agents or employees.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-557s. Liability of owner or keeper of horse, pony, donkey or mule.

(a) In any civil action brought against the owner or keeper of any horse, pony, donkey or mule to recover damages for any personal injury allegedly caused by such horse, pony, donkey or mule, such horse, pony, donkey or mule shall not be found to belong to a species that possesses a naturally mischievous or vicious propensity.

(b) In any civil action brought against the owner or keeper of any horse, pony, donkey or mule to recover damages for any personal injury allegedly caused by such horse, pony, donkey or mule, there shall be a presumption that such horse, pony, donkey or mule did not have a propensity to engage in behavior that would foreseeably cause injury to humans. Such presumption may be rebutted by evidence that such horse, pony, donkey or mule



previously exhibited behavior that put the owner or keeper of such horse, pony, donkey or mule on notice that such horse, pony, donkey or mule had a propensity to engage in the behavior that allegedly caused such personal injury.

(c) There shall be no cause of action for strict liability brought against the owner of any horse, pony, donkey or mule to recover damages for any personal injury alleged to be caused by such horse, pony, donkey or mule.

