

Special Equestrians

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**Down syndrome X-Ray Form
(If Applicable)**

Dear Client, 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 Clients with Down syndrome, who seek to participate in horseback riding with Special Equestrians, 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. The abnormality permits under certain conditions of physical stress the spinal column to shift, which pinches the nerves issuing from the base of the brain, leading to severe consequences.

Because of this possibility, Special Equestrians, 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, then 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 an individual with Down syndrome, the individual may participate in the Special Equestrians Program.

Sincerely,

Special Equestrians

