

Connecticut General Statutes Annotated. Title 52. Civil Actions.  
Chapter 925. Statutory Rights of Action and Defenses. § 52-557p.  
Assumption of risk by person engaged in recreational equestrian  
activities, when; § 52-557s. Liability of owner or keeper of horse,  
pony, donkey or mule

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- Primary Citation: C. G. S. A. § 52-557p
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- Date Adopted: 1958

**Summary:**

This short Connecticut statute limits the liability of equine sponsors by providing that each person engaged in recreational equestrian activities assumes the risk for any injury arising out of the hazards inherent in equestrian sports. However, if the the injury was proximately caused by the negligence of the person providing the horse or by the failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use, structure or activity, liability if not limited by law. Another section (557s), enacted in 2014, states that, 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. As such, there is 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 the animal.

§ 52-557p. 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.

CREDIT(S)

(1958, Rev. § 52-577p; 1993, P.A. 93-286, § 1.)

§ 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.

Credits

(2014, P.A. 14-54, § 1, eff. May 28, 2014.)