



## METSA Team Expectations

*Approved by METSA Board of Directors September 4, 2023*

These expectations ensure that METSA qualified miniature therapy horse teams provide the highest quality of care and support to those they serve.

1. **Professionalism:** Maintain a high level of professionalism while representing the METSA program at all times.
2. **Animal Care:** Ensure the physical and emotional well-being of the miniature equine, including proper nutrition, exercise, grooming, and veterinary care.
3. **Training:** Regularly engage in training and socialization activities to ensure the miniature equine is well-behaved and comfortable in various settings.
4. **Safety:** Prioritize safety for both the equine and the individuals they interact with. Follow all safety protocols and guidelines.
5. **Interaction:** Interact with clients, patients, and participants in a compassionate, patient, and empathetic manner, considering their individual needs and comfort levels.
6. **Teamwork:** Work collaboratively with other members of the team, including handlers and support personnel, to ensure effective and seamless Equine Assisted Activity (EAA) sessions.
7. **Documentation:** Maintain accurate records of EAA sessions, including client progress, observations, and any incidents or concerns. These records may be requested for review.
8. **Appearance:** Present the equine and yourself in a neat, clean, and appropriate manner when participating in EAA sessions or public events.
9. **Boundaries:** Respect personal boundaries and privacy of clients and participants. Avoid sharing personal information unless relevant to the therapeutic process.
10. **Continuing Education:** Stay informed about the latest developments in EAA and attend METSA-approved continuing education courses to enhance skills and knowledge.



11. **Legal and Ethical Standards:** Adhere to all legal and ethical standards related to animal-assisted activity, including relevant laws and regulations.
12. **Communication:** Maintain open and clear communication with METSA program coordinators, clients, and healthcare professionals involved in therapy sessions.
13. **Community Involvement:** Participate in community outreach and awareness activities to promote the benefits of miniature equine activities.
14. **Emergency Preparedness:** Be prepared to handle emergencies, including first aid for the equine and clients, and have a plan in place for unforeseen situations.
15. **Annual Certification:** Undergo annual requalification evaluations to ensure that both the equine and the handler continue to meet METSA standards.
16. **Confidentiality:** Maintain the confidentiality of all information shared during therapy sessions, respecting the privacy of clients and participants.