GAIT Equine Assisted Services

GAIT EAS's mission is to improve the quality of life of children & adults with special needs through equine assisted services, resulting in a more independent life in society.

PO Box 69 Milford, PA 18337 **Phone:** 570-409-1140 **Email:** info@gaittrc.org **Website:** www.gaittrc.org

Welcome to GAIT Equine Assisted Services!

Thank you for your interest in participating in our programs!

GAIT EAS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and a Premier Accredited Center through PATH Intl. *(Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, International).* All equine sessions are conducted by PATH Intl. Certified Instructors, Equine Specialists, licensed therapists, credentialed mental health professionals, and specially trained volunteers.

Please be sure your physician is aware of the participant's particular diagnoses for precautions and contraindications, whether it is shown on the below list or not. The following is a *partial list* of diagnoses of conditions, syndromes, disorders and problems as assessed by PATH Intl. to be precautions and contraindications for riding activities. *If you have any questions regarding this, please ask your physician*:

- Degenerative Joint Conditions
- Heart/Cardiac Conditions
- Atlantoaxial Instability *(AAI)*
- Indwelling Catheters
- Skin Integrity
- Spinal Stenosis

GAIT EAS accepts participants into one or more of the programs offered at this facility on an individual basis. Individuals are assessed by GAIT's professional staff, contracted therapists, or recommendations by professionals in the health and educational fields and accepted with parental/ caregiver consent. Discharge of participants would follow the PATH Intl. Accreditation Standards A-9.

We look forward to providing you with our "Premier" Level of service! We hope you have as much fun at GAIT EAS as we do!

Sincerely,

GAIT's Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers, and Horses!

GAIT EQUINE ASSISTED SERVICES
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(Web) www.gaittrc.org

Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP) Forms

In order to provide the safest conditions possible and quality services, we ask that all participants and their families adhere to GAIT's policies. Please complete and sign the enclosed forms and return prior to the first session. **These forms are valid for the current year only, and must be updated each year**. If you have any questions regarding this packet, please contact our office.

POLICIES OF GAIT EAS

All EFP sessions are conducted by a licensed mental health professional and a Path Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning (ESMHL). Specially trained volunteers may be asked to assist with the horses during sessions.

I. Payment and Attendance

- Fee for each participant is $140 per 1-hr session of psychotherapy
- Cancellations must be made 24 hours in advance. There may be a cancellation fee of $55 for missed sessions without 24-hour notice
- Active Duty Military, Veterans, first responders, and family members may be eligible to receive funding and/or discount. Please inquire with GAIT's office staff to learn more
- GAIT is open year round with an indoor arena available during inclement weather. Please contact the office if you are unsure of the schedule

II. Safety Guidelines

- No smoking ANYWHERE on the premises
- Parents/ legal guardians/ authorized caregivers are responsible for the supervision of participants and non-participants while at GAIT and must remain on the premises
- Please refrain from climbing/ sitting on fences or gates, making loud noises, using umbrellas, running, or throwing objects while horses are in the arena, as this may distract horses
- Please note that barn environments are unique and may not be possible to fully disinfect every item or equipment
- Please wear boots *(no steel toe)* or sneakers; riding boots or hard soled shoe with a heel are preferred. Open toed shoes, sandals, or crocs are not permitted.
- Wear long pants and t-shirts to protect skin; dress appropriately for weather
- ASTM-SEI *(American Society for Testing and Materials – Safety Equipment Institute)* certified helmets are required for each participant while in the arena and/or interacting with the horse. GAIT has ASTM-SEI helmets available for shared use for participants who do not have their own

Signature: _____ ***Date:*** _____

Participant Application and Contact Information

(Form 1)

Date: _____

Participant's Contact Information:

Participant's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Age: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____

PATH Intl. sets weight limits for horse's safety. Ht. / Wt. is required to determine appropriate horse for rider

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ Email: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: ☐ Home Phone ☐ Cell Phone ☐ Work Phone ☐ Email

Please provide a current email address *to receive info on schedules, events, and other important notifications. For communication purposes, please be sure to notify GAIT of any changes to contact information ASAP*

Parent/Legal Guardian/Authorized Caregiver Contact Information:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____ Relation: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Relation: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Relation: _____ Phone: _____

We would love to showcase your stories on our website and communications with donors/ grantors! Please consider providing a testimonial about your experience at GAIT.

What were some goals that you wanted to achieve, or challenges you wanted to overcome? What do you like about coming to GAIT? Who is your favorite horse, and why?

Send us a picture of you and your horse doing your thing! Your success makes what we do rewarding! Please let us know if you have any questions about submitting a testimonial.

Agreement for Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy Sessions:

I, _____ (*print name*), am at least 18 years old and give my permission for the mental health professional _____ to conduct psychotherapy session(s) at the equine facility ____***GAIT Equine Assisted Services (GAIT EAS)***__ for myself/ my son/ my daughter/ my ward.

I understand that sessions with equines can be risky and that the GAIT staff and volunteers are trained to know horse behaviors and handling techniques to keep me as safe as possible. I also understand that the mental health professional is bound by the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics for confidentiality.

Signature: _____ *Date:* _____ _____

(Must be signed by Parent/Legal Guardian/Authorized Caregiver if participant is under 18)

Relation to Participant: _____

Therapeutic & Safety Issues Checklist

(Form 3)

Check/ indicate current history of and describe (on form or discretely in person) any applicable issues:

- ☐ Inattention
- ☐ Hyperactivity
- ☐ Lack of concentration
- ☐ Learning disabilities
- ☐ Developmental delay
- ☐ Cognitive challenges
- ☐ Boundary issues
- ☐ Problems with peers/ social skills
- ☐ Separation anxiety
- ☐ Anxiety
- ☐ Phobias
- ☐ Aggressive
- ☐ Assaultive
- ☐ Manipulative
- ☐ Unpredictable/ dangerous behavior
- ☐ Sensory impairment
- ☐ Sensitivity, preferences
- ☐ Tics or stereotypic behavior
- ☐ Psychosomatic symptoms
- ☐ Medical issues
- ☐ Self-injurious behavior
- ☐ Suicidal ideations
- ☐ History of runaway
- ☐ Issues of parental support
- ☐ Issues of family support
- ☐ Sexual abuse/ acting out
- ☐ History of physical abuse
- ☐ Emotional abuse
- ☐ Hallucinations
- ☐ Delusions
- ☐ Illusions
- ☐ Dissociations
- ☐ Substance abuse problems
- ☐ Legal problems
- ☐ School problems
- ☐ History of animal abuse and/or ☐ fire setting
- ☐ Seizure disorder
- ☐ Possible medication side effects

Participant's Health History and Goals

(Form 4)

HEALTH HISTORY:

Diagnosis: _____ Date of Onset: _____

Please indicate current or past special needs in the following areas:

MEDICATIONS: *include prescription, over-the-counter; name, dose and frequency*

_____

_____

_____

_____

PHYSICAL FUNCTION: Describe abilities/difficulties in the following areas. Please include assistance required or equipment needed (*i.e. mobility skills such as transfers, walking, range of motion, wheelchair use, etc.)*

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

PSYCHO/SOCIAL FUNCTION: *i.e. Work/school, favorite music, color, activities, etc., family structure, support systems, companion animals, fears/concerns, etc.*

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

GOALS: Describe what personal goals or skills you would like to achieve. How can GAIT help you? *i.e. socialization, recreation, improve sensory awareness, increase core strength, etc.*

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment

(Form 5)

AUTHORIZATION:

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Relation: _____ Phone: _____

Physician's Name: _____ Preferred Medical Facility: _____

Health Insurance Company: _____ Policy #: _____

Allergies to medications: _____

Current medications: _____

In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during the process of receiving services, or while being on the property of GAIT EAS, I authorize GAIT to:

1. Secure and retain medical treatment and transportation if needed.
2. Release client records upon request to the authorized Individual or agency involved in the medical emergency treatment.

CONSENT PLAN

This authorization includes x-ray, surgery, hospitalization, medication and any treatment procedure deemed "lifesaving" by the physician. This provision will only be invoked if the person(s) above is unable to be reached.

Consent Signature: _____ Date:_____

(Client/Parent/Legal Guardian/Authorized Caregiver)

NON-CONSENT PLAN

Parent/Legal Guardian/Authorized Caregiver must remain on site at all times during equine assisted activities.

I do not give my consent for emergency medical treatment/aid in the case of illness or injury during the process of receiving services or while being on the property of GAIT Equine Assisted Services

In the event emergency treatment/aid is required, I wish the following procedure to take place:

Non-Consent Signature: _____ Date:_____

(Client/Parent/Legal Guardian/Authorized Caregiver)

Liability and Photo/Media Release Form

(Form 6)

RELEASES:

There are 2 separate releases on this form. Please print name/sign and date each section

1. *LIABILITY RELEASE:*

I would like to participate in GAIT EAS's program. I acknowledge the risks and potential for risks of horseback riding or working with or around horses. However, I feel that the possible benefits to me/my son/my daughter/my ward are greater than the risk assumed. I hereby, intending to be legal bound, for myself, my heirs and assigns, executors or administrators, waive and release forever all claims for damages against GAIT EAS, its Board of Directors, Instructors, Therapists, Aides, Volunteers and/or Staff for any and all injuries and/or losses I/ my son/ my daughter/ my ward may sustain while participating in any GAIT programs.

Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

2. *MEDIA RELEASE:* for all promotional materials including *(but not limited to)* photographs, audio/videos, testimonials for our use on our website or Facebook page and/or for print:

I, _____ (*print name*),

☐ **DO** ☐ **DO NOT** *(check one)*

consent to and authorize the use and reproduction by GAIT EAS of any and all audio/visual materials taken of me/ my son/ my daughter/ my ward for promotional material, education activities, website, or for any other use for the benefit of the program.

Signature: _____ *Date:* _____ _____