



State of Missouri
Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, Missouri's equine industry has a rich history of horses, mules, and donkeys being used for agricultural work, transportation purposes, and recreational use; and

WHEREAS, the beneficial impact of the equine industry on Missouri's economy is essential to continued growth, with over 281,000 equids primarily used for recreational and show purposes; the industry contributes \$718 million in goods and services and provides 42,200 full-time jobs across the state; and

WHEREAS, Missouri equestrians span all facets of industry from breeders to trainers, boarders to farriers, veterinarians to ranchers, trail riders to competition riders, rodeo to thoroughbred racing, carriage services and much more, all of whom are concerned with the conservation and protection of Missouri's historic equine culture; and

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri recognizes the Missouri Mule as the state animal, for Missouri historically being the nation's primary mule producer, and the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse as the state horse, for originating in the Ozark Mountains in the early 19th century; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's dedicated researchers, professionals, and stakeholders work collaboratively to advance equine nutrition, health, and husbandry, including improved communications and distribution of information, resulting in improved well-being for equids nation-wide; and

WHEREAS, equestrian trails and shared trails have been properly preserved and maintained in order to protect the environment, reducing soil erosion and run-off; to benefit recreational use of equids, contributing to improved quality of life for Missourians. There is nothing better than the view of nature and the world from the back of a horse, mule, or donkey; and

WHEREAS, caring for and building a working relationship with horses, mules, and donkeys has proven beneficial to Missourian's quality of life, including use as therapeutic animals to children, adults, and veterans with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim December 13, 2023, to be

NATIONAL DAY OF THE HORSE

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 13th day of November, 2023.



Michael L. Parson
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE