

BASIC SAFELY GUIDELINES WHEN WORKING WITH HORSES

Introduction:

As prey animals, a horse's ability to react quickly and out-run a predator was key to their survival in the wild. This instinct remains strong in domestic horses even though we make every effort to give them a safe environment to live in. They can become startled easily and can remain upset long after whatever scared them has passed. Some horses are more reactive than others.

SAFETY GUIDELINES:

___ Wear sturdy hard-toed shoes or boots that will protect your feet if the horse steps on them. Do not wear sandals, flip-flops, mesh athletic shoes, or any thin shoes in a stable or around horses.

___ EACOC recommends that you do not wear jewelry while working with your horse. Rings, bracelets and earrings can get caught on halters, reins or lead lines.

___ Always speak to the horse to get the horse's attention before approaching or touching and always approach the horse from the front (saying hello).

___ Never approach the horse directly from the rear.

___ Be calm and mindful when approaching a horse. Sudden moves or loud noises can cause a horse to shy (jump sideways) or kick out.

___ Pet a horse by first placing your hand on its shoulder or neck. The touch should be a rubbing action. Don't "dab" at the end of a horse's nose.

___ The safest place to stand is beside your horse's shoulder where you can see each other, or about 10 or more feet away unless you are grooming, tacking up or otherwise interacting with your horse.

___ When you are grooming, stay close to the horse's shoulder, you won't be struck with the full force of his feet. Nor will you receive the full force of a kick if you stay close to the body when you work around the haunches or pass behind the horse.

___ Never stand directly behind a horse. If you are grooming its tail, stand to one side and pull the tail gently towards you.

____ When cleaning a horse's hooves or putting on leg bandages, don't squat or kneel. Bend over so that if the horse moves you can get out of the way quickly.

____ When leading the horse, walk beside him – not ahead or behind. A position even with the horse's head or halfway between the horses' head and its shoulder is considered the safest.

____ Never loop lead ropes, lunge lines, or reins around your hands or any other body part. If your horse pulls away, you could be dragged. Don't tie yourself to a horse in any way

____ When tying up a horse use a quick release knot so if a horse pulls back you will be able to release the rope to keep yourself and the horse from being injured.

I understand that it is my responsibility to follow the guidelines set out in this document and verbal guidelines given by EACOC employees, independent contractors, mentee's, volunteers and any other persons associated with EACOC. I also understand that these guidelines are in place for my or my child's safety and agree to abide by these guidelines. If I do not abide by these guidelines, my child or I may be asked to leave EACOC's facility and will be responsible for paying for the session and/or workshop I am attending.

Print Name of Participant

Signature of Participant

Date