



S.A.F.E.R. HORSEMANSHIP

Horse Handling Safety Guidelines

Safe horse handling begins with awareness, preparation, communication, and respect. These guidelines are designed to help create safer and more structured interactions between horses and humans.

GENERAL SAFETY

- Always remain aware of your surroundings and the horse's body language.
- Approach horses calmly and confidently.
- Avoid sudden movements, loud noises, or running near horses.
- Never sit, kneel, or crouch directly behind a horse.
- Wear appropriate footwear with closed toes.

APPROACHING & LEADING HORSES

- Approach at the shoulder where the horse can see you.
- Speak softly before touching the horse.
- Use appropriate lead ropes and halters.
- Maintain safe personal space while leading.
- Never wrap lead ropes around your hand or body.

BARN & AISLEWAY SAFETY

- Keep barn aisles clear of clutter and equipment.
- Do not allow running or roughhousing in the barn.
- Keep stall doors securely latched.
- Respect restricted or staff-only areas.
- Always pass horses carefully with awareness.

TACK & EQUIPMENT SAFETY

- Inspect tack before use for damage or wear.
- Ensure saddles and bridles fit properly.
- Remove damaged equipment from use immediately.
- Store tack and tools safely when not in use.

RIDER SAFETY

- Approved helmets are strongly recommended.
- Mount and dismount in designated safe areas.
- Beginner riders should work under supervision.
- Match riders appropriately with horses.
- Follow instructor directions at all times.

HORSE BEHAVIOR AWARENESS

- Recognize signs of fear, stress, pain, or discomfort.
- Never punish horses for confusion or fear.
- Allow horses space to process unfamiliar situations.
- Respect the horse's boundaries and communication.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Know emergency contact procedures.
- Be aware of evacuation routes and exits.
- Maintain stocked first aid kits.
- Report injuries or incidents immediately.

S.A.F.E.R. stands for:

Safe • Achievable • Fun • Effective • Respectful

Safer environments create stronger partnerships between horses and humans.

www.SAFERHorsemanship.com