



Horse Safety Guidelines

Approaching:

- Always approach a horse slowly, and speak to him as you approach.
- Never approach a horse directly from the rear.
- Best to approach a loose horse from the side, not the front (or rear).
- Pet a horse by first placing your hand on his shoulder or neck.
- Do not walk under or over a tie rope while a horse is tied
- Never go under a horse's belly
- Always walk around a horse out of kicking range, or walk very closely to him with constant contact – so he knows where you are at all times

Handling:

- Know the horse & his temperaments – & control your OWN temper at all times
- Be firm, but kind when handling a horse
- Always let the horse know what you intend to do.
- Be CALM, CONFIDENT, & COLLECTED around horses – A nervous handler causes a nervous, unsafe horse.
- Never make loud noises or quick movements around a horse.
- When working with a horse, the safest method is to tie or hold the head
- Never work directly behind a horse. Safest place is near the shoulder
- When working with the tail, stand to the side & pull the tail to you.
- While you work, stay close to the horse so that if it kicks, you will not receive the full impact
- Do not drop grooming tools on the ground where the horse (or you) could step on them.
- Don't tease a horse – He may develop bad or dangerous habits
- Discipline a horse ONLY at the instant of misbehavior. If you wait, he will not understand why he is being disciplined
- Discipline without anger
- Do not leave a halter on a horse that is turned out, as it can catch on posts or other objects

Leading:

- A horse is stronger than you – don't try to out-pull him.
- If the horse resists when being led, do not face him, as it will cause him to pull back harder.
 - Try a quick snap of the lead rope, or by turning him (off balance) in a different direction
- Walk beside the horse when leading him – not ahead or behind. Make horse walk beside you.
- Always walk with right hand nearest to the halter and the rest of the lead rope in the left hand – do not let the lead rope drag.
- NEVER wrap the lead rope or reins around any part of your body
- When turning out a horse, it is safest to lead the horse completely through the gate and turning him around to face the gate before releasing him. Do not let a horse bolt away when released.

Tying:

- Tie your horse far enough away from other horses to avoid confrontations.
- Learn how to cross-tie properly (quick-release) – if you're unsure how, ASK!
- NEVER tie a horse by the reins.
- NEVER tie a horse to his bridle – use a halter over the bridle if you must tie.
- Do not tie below the level of the horses withers.