

Basic Horse Safety Rules

- Never Approach a horse directly from the rear. Even in a stall, the horse should turn to face you. If a horse cannot see you he is more likely to kick.
- Approach your horse at his shoulder, talking to him in a calm voice. REMEMBER: Horses are creatures of REACTION (Fight or Flight); so always let the horse know where you are.
- Horses may kick, bite, strike and/or bolt if startled. REMEMBER horses cannot see your hand when you pat their noses and this may cause them to jerk their heads up so keep your head in a protected position when handling a horse. Their eyes are on the sides of their heads and approximately 2 feet in front of their head is a "blind spot."
- Use a safe lead rope and both hands when leading. The excess lead should be folded in a figure 8 pattern and held in the hand farthest from the horse. DO NOT ever wrap lead around your hand or wrist.
- Do not allow the lead or reins to drag on or near the ground. The horse or leader could step on it and trip or become entangled.
- If the horse rears, release the hand closest to the horses head so you will not be jerked off the ground.
- Always lead the horse on his left with your body in line with the throat latch and shoulder. Your hand closest to the horse should be 6-8" away from his chin.
- Do not pull down on the lead as this causes pressure on the horses head and can make him irritable. A short, light, quick correctional "tug" is all that is needed if you want him to slow down or pay attention.
- You weigh a lot less than a horse; you can not "out pull" him.
- IF a horse pulls back, step with him rather than pull against him. If he continues to pull back LET GO and CALL FOR HELP- don't risk being dragged
- If the horse will not move forward, try turning his head away from you or walking him slightly to the left or right of your original path (This is particularly helpful with the donkey.)
- ALWAYS walk AROUND your horse, preferably in front unless they are tied to the rail.
- NEVER duck under or step over the lead.

Basic Horse Safety Rules (Con't)

- IF crossties are not available ALWAYS tie your horse with a halter and lead (NEVER reins) at wither height to a strong pole using a quick release knot in the lead.
- If walking behind your horse, either walk body to body very close to him with your hand on the horses hindquarters, or at least 15 feet away. A kick is most forceful when you are about 3 feet away - avoid being at that distance.
- When several horses are being led together, travel single file with 2 horse lengths between you and the horse ahead of you - keep a safe distance apart and stay alert.
- When releasing a horse, always turn him to face you, stand at his side and pat him quietly before removing the halter. Use this technique when entering a pasture or returning a horse to his stall.
- Never yell and try to make the horse run from you - in turning, he may kick out or knock you down. Make sure that you have room to move away quickly if necessary.
- When two or more horses leave a pasture, the first ones out should be walked up to a safe spot and stopped until everyone is out, the gate is closed and everyone is ready to walk on. Otherwise the last horse watching other leave without him may panic and bolt. They are herd animals that don't like being left alone.
- Make sure that all gates and doors are always closed and secured. If it is open, close it - even when the pasture is empty or your horse is the last one to leave - close the gate behind you.
- Keep tack and equipment off the ground and in proper places. Do not leave things where people or horses could damage or be hurt by them.
- When grooming and tacking -- do it from the horses side with your back toward their head.
- NEVER squat, sit, or kneel near a horse.
- THINK SAFETY!!!! The student will be more likely to do as you do

*****Sign and Date each page in acknowledgement of receipt and your agreement to abide by all rules set forth by All Riders Up**