

CAL POLY EQUINE SAFETY AWARENESS



Protective Headgear

- Use approved headgear only

Reasons:

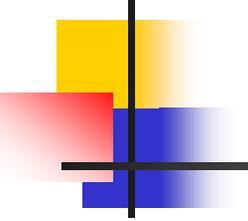
- It can save your life
- No one is "above the law"
 - **Everyone is at risk regardless of age, experience, or riding style**
- Set a good example for others
- **THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A "BOMBPROOF" HORSE!!!**



Other Suitable Attire

- Long sleeve shirt
- Loose fitting pants (jeans)
 - Shorts are NOT suitable for working around horses
- Slip-on type boots with an adequate heel
 - Tennis shoes & paddock boots can be dangerous!
- Hat
- Protective vests
- Gloves

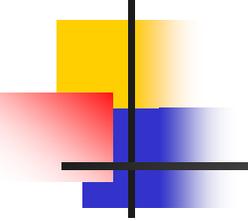




Inherent Nature of the Horse

- Horseback riding is a Rugged Adventure Recreational Sport Activity
- There are many obvious and non-obvious risks always present despite all safety precautions
- No horse is a *completely* safe horse
- Horses are 5 to 15 times larger
- Horses are 20 to 40 times more powerful
- Horses are 3 to 4 times faster than a human
- A fall from a horse to the ground may be 3 ½ to 5 ½ feet (**injury may result**)
- Horseback riding is the only sport where a smaller, weaker predator animal tries to control and become one unit with a larger, stronger prey animal
 - Each having a limited understanding of the other

Inherent Nature of the Horse (cont.)



- If a horse is frightened or provoked it may divert from its training and act to its natural survival instincts which may include but are not limited to:
 - Stopping short
 - Changing direction or speed at will
 - Shifting weight from side to side
 - Bucking
 - Rearing
 - Kicking
 - Biting
 - Running from danger

Working Around Horses on the Ground

- Always make sure the horse is aware of your presence
 - The horse should always have one ear on you
- When walking behind your horse: put one hand on his rump and walk closely behind his hind legs
 - The horse cannot achieve maximum force this way



Working Around Horses on the Ground (cont.)

- Introduce yourself to strange horses before working with them
 - Greet your horse and allow him to get to know you before invading his space to groom, saddle, clip, etc.



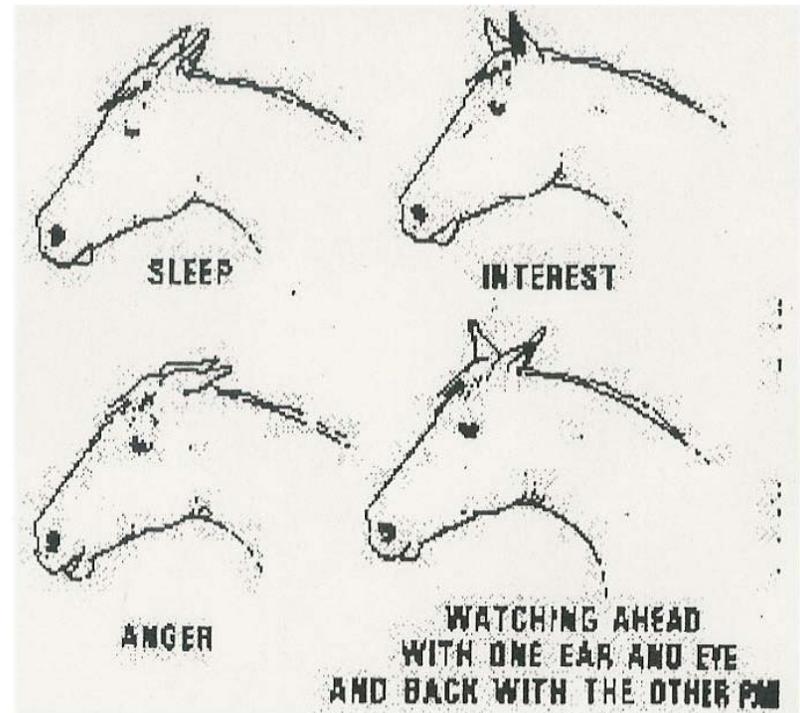
Know the Warning Signs!!!

■ Ears:

- Flat against head = ANGRY
- Slight tilt back = Listening to you
- Strained forward = Listening... may be precursor to a spook
- Out flaccidly to the side = Possible pain or sick

■ Eyes:

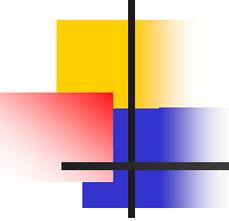
- Whites showing = FEAR
- Glazed = Something wrong... sick or pain



Know the Warning Signs (cont.)

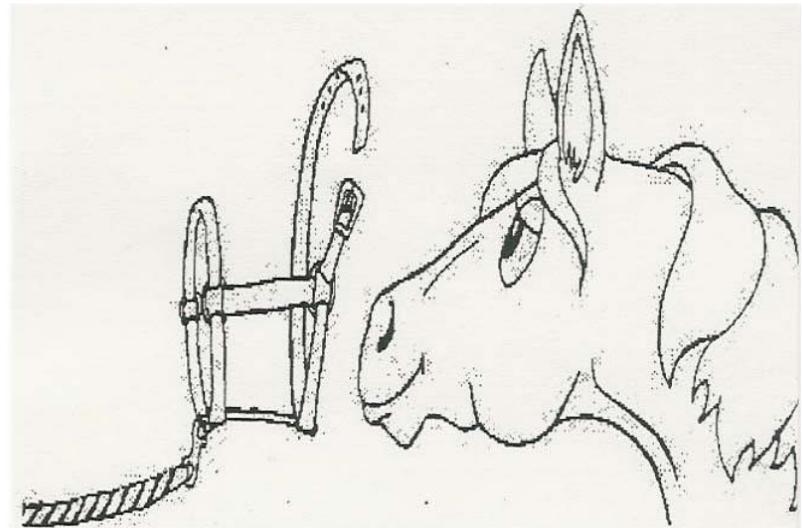
- Swishing tail = ANNOYANCE
- Teeth Bared = ANGRY!!
- Stomping Feet = Annoyance...
May be a precursor to a kick





Catching a Horse

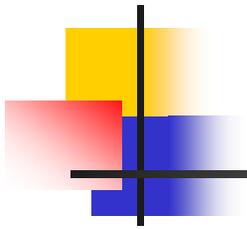
- Know which horse you are supposed to be catching
- Select proper equipment for intended use
- Use properly fitting halter and leadropes
- Avoid equipment in poor repair



Catching a Horse (cont.)

- Methods of catching
 - Walk up to
 - Use rewards (carrots, grain, etc.)
 - Reduce the size of the environment
 - *Caution!* This method may frighten green horses
 - Roping

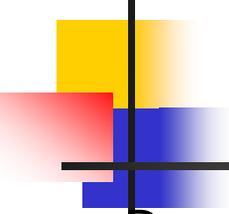




PRO CEDURE

- Have equipment ready
- Get horse's attention
- Approach at a 45 degree angle
- Put leadrope over horse's neck
- Put on halter
- Fit the halter and buckle or tie it
- Reward horses with pat or rub





Leading a Horse

■ Preparation

- Get your body ready: Know where the horse is in proximity to your own body
- Pick up leadrope and walk forward

■ Length of Leadrope

- Hold lead 18-24" from halter
- Hold excess in other hand
 - *NEVER wind rope around hand = *Injury!!!**

■ Stopping

- Check the horse in advance: use voice, wiggle rope
- Do what it takes to get job done... No more, No less

■ Turning Around

- You turn around the horse or he around you
- Never turn your back on the horse

RELEASING HORSES

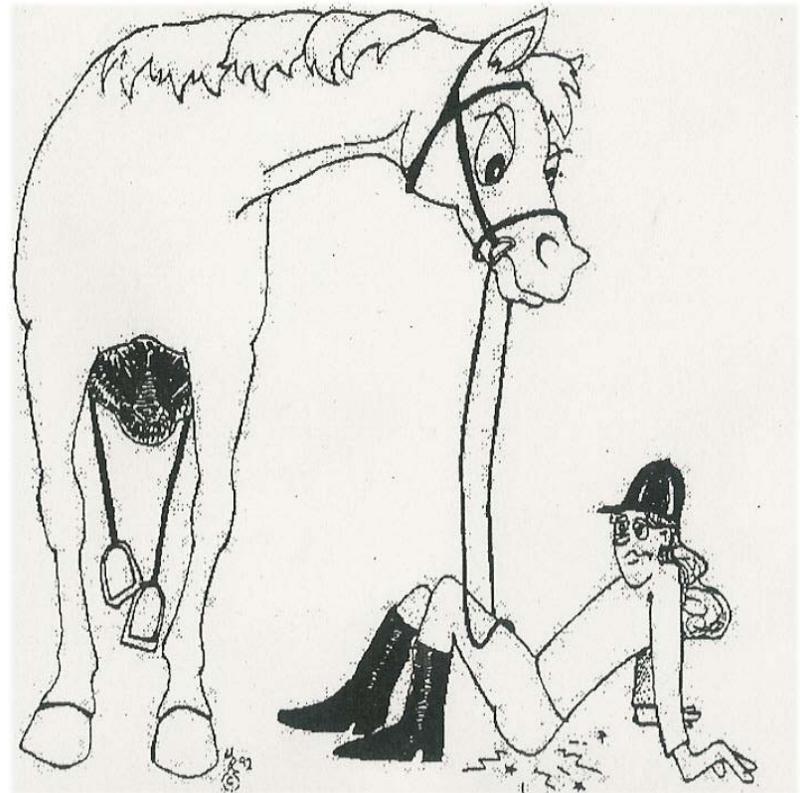
Procedure

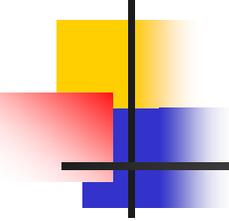
- Stand between your horse and the gate
- Put the leadrope over the horse's neck
- Unbuckle the halter
- Back away from the horse and close the gate
 - When working with a group of horses and students... Release the horses all at the same time

General

- Use proper fitting and suitable equipment
- Check all equipment for safety prior to each ride
 - Check girth for wear
 - Check billets/latigos for wear
 - Check saddle pads for burs or stickers
- Do Not ride under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Do Not crowd other horses while riding

may result in injury





Trail Riding

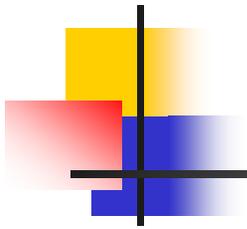
- Always tell someone or leave a note when you leave, include:
 - Time you left
 - Direction you went
 - Approximate time of return
- Ride with a partner whenever possible



Arena Riding

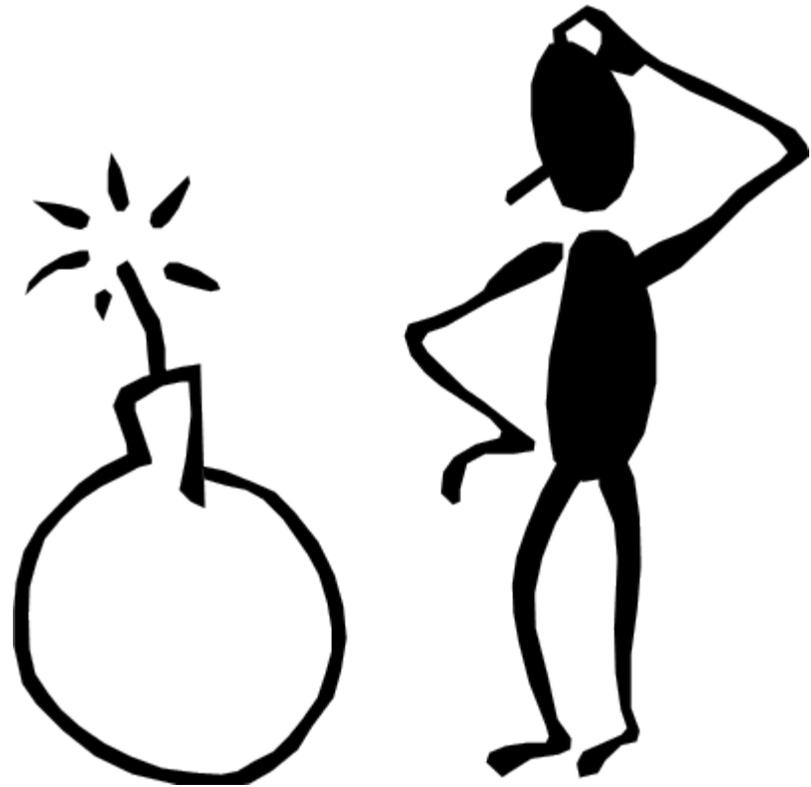
- Follow the “Rules of the Road”
 - Always pass left shoulder to left shoulder
 - Horses moving at a faster rate have the right of way on the rail
 - Do Not make sudden stops on the rail...move to the inside
 - Keep at least 1 horse length between you and other horses to avoid getting kicked
 - Mount and Dismount in the center, out of the way





Arena Riding (cont.)

- Use common sense
 - Do Not longe horses without asking permission from those riding...especially excitable ones
 - Never turn horses loose while others are riding
 - If limited visibility: Announce your entrance to those riding



General Comments About Horses

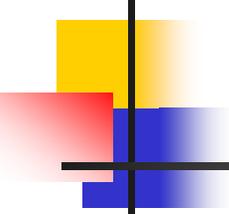
- Horses are gregarious by nature
- When working around horses, be quiet but confident
 - Horses sense fear easily
- Stay “in your body”
 - Be aware of your surroundings
 - Don't day dream while around the Horse Unit
- Do Not work around horses you are uncomfortable with
- Do Not use equipment on or around horses you are not familiar with...ask for help



In the Event of an Emergency, Accident, or Incident

- **REMAIN CALM!!!**
- Attempt to get the situation under control:
 1. Assess the situation
 2. Get help if needed
 3. Notify proper individuals (Instructors, advisors, ect.)
 4. Get Medical help if necessary
 5. Follow proper University procedure...Contact Animal Science Department Office within 24 hours



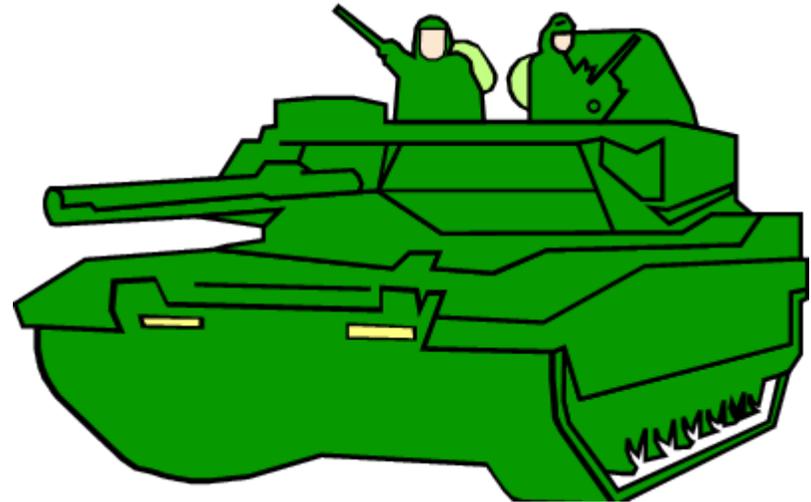


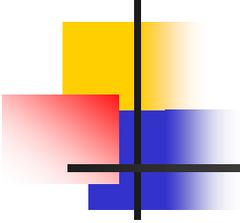
Infectious Waste

- May encounter this while working with breeding animals, sick animals, or while doing rounds with one of the university veterinarians
- Includes the following:
 - Laboratory wastes
 - Pathological specimens
 - Surgical specimens
 - Contaminated equipment, instruments, utensils, and other disposable materials
 - And any other material determined by the faculty or staff to be a hazard
- Procedure for disposal:
 - Segregation of infectious waste from other waste at point of origin
 - Transport of infectious waste disposal or storage sites
 - Sharps will be collected in suitable containers
 - Containment from weather, animals, and breeding rodents or insects
 - Clear labeling of such material
 - Infectious waste will be removed by a licensed infectious waste hauler

Motorized Equipment: Tractors, ATV's University Trucks and Trailers

- Do Not use any equipment without permission
- Do Not use equipment you have not been trained to use or have the proper license to use
- Do Not use equipment for pleasure purposes or purposes not designated as suitable use
- Always use caution when operating any motor vehicle
- Do Not operate any motorized equipment while under the influence of drugs or alcohol





THE END

