

# EquiHeart

## Guided Horsemanship Activities

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### Horse Safety

Horses are prey animals and have survived in herds because of their keen senses and instincts. They are constantly alert to their environment, what's in close proximity and also, farther away. In order to be safe around horses, it is important to pay attention to and observe their natural behavior and body language, and to pay attention to your own, as well.

Some basic safety considerations around horses are listed below. Following these guidelines is the best precaution against any serious injury occurring. More specific information will be learned as you progress through your activities.

1. A horse's "blind spots" are directly in front of his nose and directly behind his rump. He will not see you if you stand in these places and he may become startled. Consider this when around a horse.
2. It is safest to approach a horse at his side, in his shoulder area.
3. If you crowd a horse's space, you could be stepped on or pushed aside or even knocked to the ground.
4. Pay attention to the location of a horse's feet and how he moves his feet. The front or back feet could step on you and the back feet (very powerful) could kick you if you are behind a horse and he is startled.
5. If you should need to move behind a horse, stay close to his body, placing your hand on his rump so he knows you are there.
6. Be aware of the horse's head and mouth and how he moves them. If you get too close, you may be hit with his head (which is very powerful) or you could be bitten if he is looking for food in your hand.

***I have fully read, understand and agree to keep in mind these Horse Safety considerations as I and/or my family members participate in Basic Horsemanship Activities.***

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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