

## SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Never run in the barn, make sudden movements, shout or scream. Speak calmly, firmly, and confidently.
- Never enter a horse's stall or an off-limits part of the barn without a staff member.
- Approach the horse at the shoulder so as not to surprise him. (Horses have blind spots - front and back).
- Never put your fingers near the horse's mouth, but the head, nose and body are ok.
- Never walk behind a horse. If you have to approach from the back let them know that you are there (use your voice as you approach and place hand on rump).
- Always face and watch the horse when working around them. Keep track of where your feet are.
- Watch for signs to determine your horse's mood (ears, eyes, tail).
- Every horse is different just like us, be adaptable to their likes and dislikes.
- Never sit or kneel next to a horse (bend at waist if necessary).
- Always use a halter and lead rope when working with a horse.
- Always make sure that the horse follows you into and out of stalls & pastures, you should lead the way, not them.
- When leading, allow some slack in the rope.
- Always keep two horse lengths between horses.
- Do not let horses sniff noses or tails. They often times strike out at each other.
- Students must wear a properly fitted helmet whenever working with the horses.
- If the horse should step on your foot, calmly press on his shoulder to off-set his balance and remove your foot.
- Never tie a horse to a movable object.
- Always tie a horse with a quick release knot.
- Never tie the horse by the bit or reins.
- Never wrap the reins or lead rope around your hand, wrist, or body.
- Never walk under a horse.
- Never walk over a tied rope.
- Always check safety and fit of tack prior to tacking.
- Never leave a saddle on a horse without a girth.
- Never leave the reins dangling so that you or the horse could step in them.
- Never leave equipment lying on the ground. It can be a hazard.
- Wipe flies off of the horse, do not slap.
- Use the buddy system.
- ASK if you don't know something or forget.