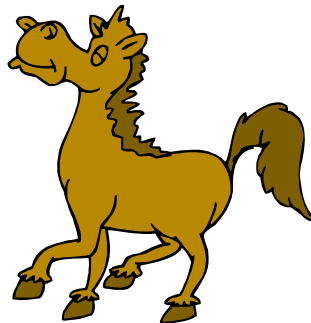


June Horse Handling



Riding:

- Mount a horse out in the open away from projections or low overheads.
- Until you know your horse, ride only in a confined area.
- Don't crowd other horses or rush past riders moving at slower gaits.
- Only tie a horse to a trailer that is hitched to a vehicle.
- Do not leave a halter on a loose horse, since it could easily get hooked on a post or a tree.
- Children not familiar with horses should be supervised.
- When approaching a horse in a stall speak softly and wait until it notices you before entering the stall.
- Never wrap a rope or strap around any part of your body, because if a horse bolts you could be seriously injured.
- When passing around the rear of a horse put your hand on the rump to let him know you are there and make sure that the horse is aware of you before passing behind it. Feel for relaxed muscles rather than taunt or tight, since a horse can't kick when it is relaxed.



Upset Horse:

- Ears that are laid back are a warning sign that the horse is either unhappy or frustrated.
- The lip can be an indicator that it is upset, some do this when they are relaxed or have what is known as parrot lip and the lower lip protrudes and can give this upset appearance.
- The poll of the head between the ears is very sensitive and a horse could bite or toss its head if you touch this area sharply.
- Horses have poor depth perception and may become frightened when crossing shallow water or ditches.
- Allow a horse time to adjust if it is nervous or remove the distraction entirely.
- When approaching the rear of a horse, come from an angle since it might not know you are there and could get spooked and kick.
- Wear proper gloves, footwear, and a helmet when around horses and riding them. Also make sure that all of your gear is in good condition.
- Stand near the shoulder (not in front) of a horse when clipping and braiding. When working on the tail, stand near the hindquarters and not behind the horse. This protects you from getting kicked.
- Never duck under the neck of a horse, whether it is tied or not.
- If approaching a horse in a stall, make the horse move over before you walk beside it.

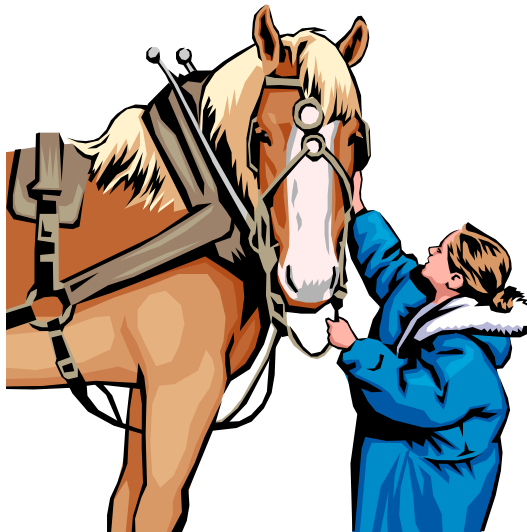
Activities

Short Activity:

- Watch the chapter on Safe Animal Handling on the Safe Animal Handling CD-ROM resource you can get from the BC 4-H office. Then go through the multiple choice questions that follow the video clip with your club.
- Test your members knowledge on safe horse handling. Have the members form small groups and ask them to write a list of 5 horse safety points. Next ask them to create a list of 5 crazy and definitely wrong things to do that aren't safe when handling a horse. Have them share with the whole club.

Longer Activities or Safety Camp:

- Go horse back riding with your club. Before riding go over how to approach a horse properly, the proper techniques of getting a horse ready to ride, and safe riding techniques.
- Have your club conduct a walkabout in a local stable to see if they are kept safe for the animals and people who work in them.



June

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