

Guidelines for visitors



- **Don't scare the horses!** No running, loud noises or scary objects (such as balloons or noisy toys) around the barn. If a horse acts alarmed, stop, stand still and lower your hands.

- **Always speak to a horse and quietly get his attention before touching him.** Horses sometimes doze on their feet, and you could startle one and make him jump if you surprise him.

- **Stay out of the horse's blind spots.** A horse can't see what's directly behind him, underneath his head and belly, and right under the end of his nose. Don't duck under the neck (or belly!) of a horse when he's tied up—this can startle him.

- **Stay in the safety zone,** which is near the horse's neck and shoulder. If you go behind a horse, stay out of kicking range. Don't stand directly in front of a horse: He might toss his head and bump you.

- **Watch out for your feet.** A horse weighs about half a ton and he doesn't look where he steps. When leading, walk beside the horse's neck, not close to his feet.

- **Don't go into a pasture or stall with a horse unless the owner is with you.** Farm machinery, haylofts and some places around the barn are also off limits because they aren't safe for visitors.

- **Leave all gates and doors closed.** A gate left open can let a horse get loose and into serious trouble.

- **Supervise children closely whenever horses are near.** Do not allow kids to go to the barn or pasture without an adult who is experienced with horses.