



Policies, Procedures, and Protocols

Title: Wellbeing and Handling	Original Date: 6/19/19
	Last Review Date:
	Last Revised Date: 3/2021

Approved by: Kate Starr

Title: President

Date: 6/21/19

Purpose	Wellbeing and Handling
Content	<p>General:</p> <p>All activities are consistent with equine-typical behaviors and physiology.</p> <p>Equine use is consistent with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Animal Welfare Principles published in 2006. This includes but is not limited to training, companionship, work, recreation, exhibition and research. All activities between humans and equines are conducted for the benefit of both humans and animals.</p> <p>The wellbeing of the equine is the first priority in all events and activities. Activities are structured to minimize stress, pain, fear and suffering for both equine and human participants. Any activities that adversely affect the equine will be discontinued or restructured immediately.</p> <p>All equines are treated with dignity and respect by volunteers, visitors and adopters.</p> <p>All volunteers, regardless of previous equine experience, are trained to properly interact with equines per Sunshine Horse’s internal policies. All policies are meant to keep both equines and humans safe. Volunteers who cannot adhere to these policies are not permitted to interact with equines.</p> <p>We do not take in stallions or horses that have behavioral issues which could put our volunteers or herd at risk. The temperament of each equine is evaluated prior to acceptance in our rescue.</p> <p>Daily turnout is given to all equines precluding adverse weather conditions, injury and illness.</p> <p>Each equine is given a halter that is tailored to his/her measurements. All halters are adjusted so that two fingers fit snugly between the horse and the noseband.</p>



	<p>All equines are led to turnout pastures by experienced volunteers. Volunteers are taught proper use of a lead rope equipped with a nose-chain to maintain control of the equine without causing stress or injury.</p> <p>Equines are led from their left side with the volunteer positioned between the withers and the head.</p> <p>Equines are taught to yield hindquarters, move forward and stop to keep all volunteers and equines safe during transport to and from turnout and stalls.</p> <p>Pathways and pastures are maintained to provide safe footing for equines and humans.</p> <p>Equines are grouped with horses of complimentary temperament and build to minimize conflict and stress to all members of the group. Turnout groups are re-evaluated and changed as the equine population changes.</p> <p>Volunteers are encouraged to always be aware of situations in their immediate surroundings that might cause a horse to react or ‘spook’. Examples of situations where a horse might react suddenly include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-walking a horse in the aisle, or having a horse in cross ties, while another horse in its stall reaches out to bite the horse-having a horse in cross ties while someone at the other end of the aisle pulls the water hose across the horse's feet-any sudden or loud noise from farm equipment/machinery such as the tractor, ATV, truck, saw, drill, etc.-any sudden movements from a person or another animal such as a bird or cat <p>It is imperative for the safety of our volunteers and animals that everyone practices ‘situational awareness’ in order to predict adverse events and take proactive measures to reduce the risk of injury.</p> <p>Policies and principles are evaluated regularly and modified as organization goals, equine population and resources change.</p>
References	<p>Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries Accreditation Requirements www.sanctuaryfederation.org/accreditation</p> <p>American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) https://aaep.org/guidelines/aaep-ethical-and-professional-guidelines/aaep-position-statements/equine-welfare</p>



Sunshine Horses

Helping Horses, Helping People

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Pet Care Guidelines

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/horse-behavior/teaching-your-horse-lead>

Horses and Horse Information (American Horses Rider Magazine)

www.horses-and-horse-information.com