

Work Experience Safety Protocol

Handing horses is an inherently risky activity. The following must be followed to ensure your safety and the safety of vets and nurses at Canberra Equine Hospital.

General Handling:

- If you ever feel uncomfortable or uncertain about a horse you have been asked to hold please let the vet or nurse know immediately.
- Please do not enter or take a horse from their box or yard unless asked by a veterinarian or a nurse.
- ALWAYS use a halter and lead rope when you are handling any horse on the premises. NO MATTER THE ACTIVITY.
- Make sure you have all the equipment you will need before entering a horse's box or yard. Eg. Halter and lead, bit, stethoscope, thermometer, medication, brushes etc.
- Always get the horses attention before entering the box. When in the box encourage the horse to come towards you. Approach from the near left shoulder or neck. NEVER approach a horse from behind.
- Ensure the halter is done up correctly (buckle or rope) and secure before taking the horse out of the box. ALWAYS use a bit/bridle when instructed to for additional control.
- Always open the door wide enough so that the horse cannot knock any part of its body on the frame when exiting the box.
- Always lead from the shoulder on the near side of the horse. Do not walk directly in front of them.
- Never assume that a horse is OK to be tied up. Check with vets or nurse first or ask for assistance.
- When putting a horse back in its yard or box ensure that it can move through the door freely and turn the horse to the left so that the head is facing the door. Close the door before taking the halter off.
- Ensure that all gates and stable doors are closed securely before walking away.
- Any equipment you take out in the barn (wheelbarrows, rakes, brooms etc.) must be put away when you are finished with them.
- Do not take a wheelbarrow into any stable with a horse in it. Always use the black bucket for cleaning boxes and shut the door behind you.
- Do not leave rakes or manure buckets in the stable.
- Record manure and urine taken out of the box on the whiteboard next to the stable door.
- Do not place brushes on the ground where they could get damaged or cause injury.
- Take into account the surroundings when dealing with horses outside. Are cars driving around? Is it raining or windy? Be aware and observe the horse first.
- When taking radiographs you are required to wear safety gloves and gowns. If you are pregnant or under the age of 18 you cannot be present for the taking of radiographs.
- NEVER enter a mare and foal box or yard without supervision and instruction.

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General Handling – continued:

- NEVER ENTER A BOX WITH A STALLION.
- NEVER enter an isolation area without supervision from a member of staff. Follow isolation protocol and instructions from staff so nothing outside of the isolation area can become contaminated.
- Observe warning signs and protocols during your time at the hospital.

Handling for Veterinary Procedures:

- When holding a horse for a procedure be conscious of where other people are around you and the horse.
- Always stand on the same side of the horse that the procedure is happening on and where the equipment is placed.
- Never stand directly in front of the horse or move under the neck.
- Hold the horse short, below the buckle of the lead rope so that you are in control.
- Never put your fingers in or through the halter.
- When observing a procedure never stand directly behind a horse. If you are unsure of a good place to stand please ask the vet or nurse.
- Be aware of how the horse is behaving and reacting during a procedure.
- ALERT other vets or nurses if you notice that the horse is becoming agitated or aggressive.
- Do not run, shout or raise your voice in the barn. This is particularly important during the sedation process. Check with a staff member if it is ok to access the barn while a procedure is happening such as radiographs.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Under no circumstances are you able to break patient-client confidentiality. This includes any kind of social media, communicating information about patients to other clients, using specific names and information regarding patients and clients outside of Canberra Equine Hospital.

Placement will be terminated immediately if you breach confidentiality.

NO SMOKING IS PERMITTED IN THE HOSPITAL OR STABLE AREAS.