



## **HORSEMANSHIP SAFETY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Please review with your camper before each equestrian program:

Horse sense is the basis of horsemanship. This is the ability of a person to understand horses and even to think like a horse. A better understanding of horses will lessen your chance of injury, ensure more humane treatment of horses, and enhance your enjoyment of the sport of kings.

Most horses are gentle and obedient, if treated with proper care and respect. However, when hurt or frightened, a horse's instinctive response is to get away. If he can't flee, he may kick or bite in self-defense.

These rules will help you learn how to act safely around horses. They are based in knowledge of how horses think and often react.

### **HORSE SENSE RULES**

1. STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN. Use caution when around these powerful animals.
2. Dress properly – long pants, shoes or boots with a heel, a riding helmet whenever mounted\*
3. Keep your equipment neat, clean & tidy. We like clean clothes, horses like clean brushes, bits and blankets.
4. Respect the horse's home like your own; keep it uncluttered, clean, and comfortable. Behave as a guest at a friend's home.
5. Leave horseplay to horses – don't run, yell or play around them.
6. When approaching a horse:
  - a. Speak softly so he or she hears you.
  - b. Walk where he or she can see you.
  - c. Touch him or her on the neck or shoulder first.
7. Avoid horse's blind spots – don't walk or stand directly in front of or behind a horse.
8. Never feed a horse from your hand – she/he may take more than you intended; besides, horses normally get their food at ground level.
9. Don't give the horses treats; it may not be healthy for them and may spoil their appetite for dinner.
10. Don't touch a strange horse; she/he might not like it. Ask the owner for permission first.
11. Walk around a horse, never under the neck or rope.
12. Tie your horse with a halter and lead rope to a strong post, not to a fence board, and not with the bridle reins.
13. Never wrap or tie yourself to a horse in any way. Always be able to get away from a horse in 3 seconds or less.
14. Get off your horse to adjust clothing or equipment.
15. Before mounting, re-check your girth and other tack.
16. Keep at least 1 horse length spacing between your horse and others.

*\*riding helmets are provided and sanitized between uses.*

*Campers must be dressed appropriately in order to ride, Horse Sense Rule #2*

**Remember, you must have completed a horse rider's release form and have a completed medical authorization form signed by a licensed medical professional in order to ride.**