

# GUIDELINES FOR HORSE-FRIENDLY BEHAVIOR

## USE A QUIET VOICE

Horses will react to loud, abrupt noises. Try to talk to them in a soothing, quiet voice. A sudden loud noise could make them jump or spook, causing danger to all around.



## MOVE CAUTIOUSLY

Horses will react to quick, sudden movements. Try not to move too quickly, jump around, or partake in “horseplay” while in the barn and/or around horses.

## KEEP AREAS CLEAR



Do not leave things such as buckets, pitchforks, jackets, or other personal belongs laying around in areas where a horse will be walking. Horses could be easily injured on these items or they could accidentally damage the items.

## BE DRESSED & READY



Try to avoid things such as dangling jewelry, loose fitting clothes, and untied shoelaces. These can get caught on a horse’s swishing tail, objects around the barn, or trip you up when you are trying to move out of a horse’s way. Also, something as simple as a scarf waving in the wind could spook a horse.



The **Kentucky Horse Council** is a non-profit organization dedicated, through education, to the protection, growth, and development of the equine industry in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Horse Council is the official affiliate of the American Horse Council, a national organization representing all segments of the horse industry.

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## PROTECT YOUR FEET

Horses cannot see your feet when you stand next to them. When they move, be sure you are moving out of their way, so that you don't accidentally get stepped on. Always wear close-toed shoes when working around horses.



## WATCH THAT HEAD

Horses have large, heavy heads that can move quickly when they are looking at things. Always pay attention to where you are in relation to where their head is. Also, keep an eye on their ears, as that will tell you what they are paying attention to.

## ASK BEFORE PETTING OR FEEDING

Please always ask before you pet or feed someone's horse. Some horses may bite or be ill, and cannot be petted. Also, some horses may be on a strict diet or allergic to certain foods.



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