

**LOCAL JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

1. WORKING AROUND HORSES

Effective Date: March 2004

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Purpose: To promote safe work around horses

Approvals Required: Faculty Supervisor, Local JHSC, EHS

2. DEFINITIONS: n/a

3. REQUIREMENTS:

Safety shoes

Rabies vaccination

All personnel working around horses must take a safety workshop on handling procedures from a qualified veterinarian or experienced handler.

4. HAZARDS:

A horse can kick to the rear, side and front with the hind feet or kick forward with the front feet. A horse can also spook and bolt in any direction resulting in possibility of personnel being stepped on or crushed against other objects or being dragged along with the horse. A horse can also bite or swing its head resulting in a painful head butt. A horse can transmit various diseases to humans such as rabies or MRSA (methicillin resistant Staph. Aureus)

5. TASK:

A. Never work alone around a horse.

B. A qualified person should handle the horse while work is being done.

C. Restrain the horse with cross ties or stanchion box if possible.

D. Approach the horse from the head with no loud noises or sudden movements that might spook it.

E. Never place yourself in a position that can result in any of the above hazards. For example, do not stand in front or to the rear of the animal. When working on the hoof or lower legs, work from the side of the animal, and remain balanced so you can move away quickly.

F. Keep the work area clear of obstacles that could pin or trip you or the horse.

G. Have an escape route available in case the horse spooks.

H. Be aware of the horse's movements.

I. Work as quickly as possible so the horse does not get agitated.

J. Only work on good natured, cooperative animals. Suspicious behavior maybe a sign of rabies.

K. You have the right to refuse work on a potentially dangerous horse.

6. CONTINGENCY PLAN AND REPORTING:

Accident Response:

Seek appropriate first aid or medical attention.

Notify supervisor or the administrative assistant in the Biomedical Sciences department office. File incident report with supervisor who will submit form to department office.

7. REFERENCES:

8. DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES:

Faculty, technicians, graduate students, summer students and research project students working with horses.

Environmental Health and Safety

Local JHSC, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

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Authorization: _____ Supervising Manager

Date: March, 2004