


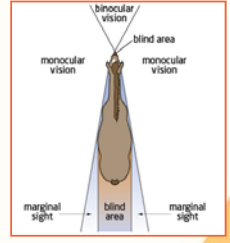
Animal Behavior and Restraint

Equine



Equine Characteristics


- Prey animals
- Grazers
- Fight or flight
- Monofocal and biofocal vision
 - Blind spots
 - Directly in front
 - Directly behind



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Normal Equine Behavior

- Herd animals
 - Group together
 - Follow herd leader
- Anxious when isolated from herd
- Mothers will protect young
 - Avoid separating mare-foal pairs



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Body Language

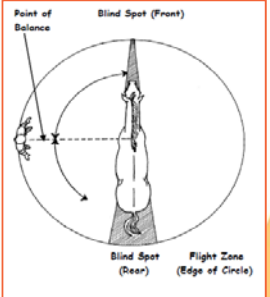
- Both ears back
 - Angry, threatened, warning
- Ears slightly back or forward
 - Listening
 - Attentive
- Tail swishing
 - Agitated



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Flight Zone

- Animal's personal space
- Indicator or possible threat
- Size determined by
 - Tameness
 - Degree of excitement
- Animal moves away from things in the flight zone



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Herding & Moving Equine

- Startled by sudden movements and loud noises
- Avoid
 - Abuse
 - Loud noises, yelling
 - Isolating animals
 - Distractions
- Use slow movements
- Easily dominated by humans

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Capture & Containment

- Tame horses
 - Used to humans
 - Easily penned
- Wild horses
 - Other horses should be used in containment
 - Avoid running them
- Use food to entice them
- Be alert of surroundings
- Makeshift corrals can be used
- Wire fencing should be avoided

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Behavior After Handling


- Allow access to feed, water, and shelter
- Extra caution should be taken with stallions
- Social order must be re-established
- Be alert of any injuries



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Restraint

- Minimal movement
 - Stocks/Chute
 - Hobbles
 - Twitch
 - Halter with chain lead shank
- Full movement
 - Stalls
 - Corrals



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Special Considerations

- Monitor in conditions of high heat or extreme cold
- Farrier needs
- Winter weather requires special equipment
 - Heaters or wind break
 - Gritty, non-slip substances
 - Blankets

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Safety

- Avoid injuries from equine
 - Kicks
 - Striking
 - Rearing
 - Biting
 - Can inflict injuries with head
 - Will run over you if desperate

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Additional Information

- Approaching a Horse Safely. American Youth Horse Council. <http://ayhc.com/uploads/approaching-a-horse-safely-2011.pdf>
- Approaching, Catching, and Haltering Horses Safely. Rutgers Cooperative Extension. http://nasdonline.org/static_content/documents/1043/d000837.pdf
- Techniques for Safely Handling Horses. Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. <http://pods.dasn.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2755/E-960.pdf>

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