

INDUSTRY WIDE LABOR-MANAGEMENT SAFETY COMMITTEE

SAFETY BULLETIN #06

ANIMAL HANDLING RULES FOR THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

1. The safety of people and animals working on productions shall be of primary concern.
2. Only qualified professional animal handlers should supervise the use of all animals on productions.
3. Notice shall be given prior to arriving on set, on the call sheet, that animals are working. Depending on the animal, a "closed set" notice should be posted on all stages where animals are working, and every effort should be made to maintain a closed set where animals are working on location.
4. The Production must obtain any required permits for having an animal working on set at a studio or a location.
5. The person supplying the animal shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations, permits, applicable licenses, and medical safeguards that may be required by Federal, State, and Local agencies to own and/or supply the animal.
6. An easily accessible and secure area shall be available for loading and unloading animals.
7. Before using any animal, an on-site safety meeting with cast and crew shall take place where the animals will be working. This should include the animal handler(s), provider(s), designated production representative, and anyone who will be working with or near the animal.

Safety meeting topics may include, but are not limited to:

- When and where the animals will be utilized.
- Proper behavior when near the animals.
- Possible risk to personnel that are involved.
- Safeguards for personnel.
- Communications.

- Emergency procedures including transportation and medical treatment.
8. It is the responsibility of the animal handler to convey to the cast and crew specific safety concerns relative to the animals being used. The animal handler shall address the cast and crew (including the parent and/or guardian of any minors on the set) regarding safety precautions while animals are on the set (*e.g.*, maintain a safe distance from wild and exotic animals, no personal pets, no feeding, no running, escape routes, etc.).
 9. The American Humane Association (AHA) guidelines on the treatment of animals used in film making state that a tranquilization and/or sedation on set for the sole purpose of filmmaking is prohibited.
 10. As a safety backup and upon consultation with the animal handler, consideration should be given to the availability of tranquilizing equipment. Potentially dangerous or complicated animal action should warrant the presence of a qualified veterinarian.
 11. Equipment operated in conjunction with animals should be in a safe operating condition as determined by the animal handler in conjunction with the property master. Basic animal safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, fire hoses, and nets should be readily available.
 12. Under no circumstances should horse falls be accomplished by tripping or pitfalls.
 13. All hitch rails shall be fastened in the ground in such a manner that the tugging of a frightened horse cannot pull them loose (*e.g.*, sleeve installation). On a stage, hitch rails will be bolted or fastened in a rigid manner. Scenery and props should be secured. Objects (*e.g.*, ladders, pedestals, etc.) that easily tip over can startle the animals.
 14. Horses being used on a production shall be properly shod for the working surface (*e.g.*, borium, rubber shoes, etc.).
 15. Extreme caution should be taken when using exotic venomous reptiles. Adhere to Safety Bulletin #12: "*Guidelines for the Use of Venomous Reptiles*".

16. The smell of alcohol has a disquieting effect on animals. All precautions shall be taken in that regard when animals are working. Other smells, such as perfumes, colognes, or food, may be distracting to the animals. In some cases, craft services and/or catering may need to be moved away from the animal action.
17. AHA guidelines require the producer to notify the AHA prior to the commencement of any work involving an animal or animals; script scenes shall be made available; representatives of the AHA may be present at any time during the filming.
18. There should be a sufficient number of adequately trained handlers for each large undomesticated animal such as a mountain lion, bear, or other large carnivore.
19. Depending on the types of animals being used, and the filming location, consideration should be given to providing onsite emergency medical transportation, with qualified medical personnel, up to and including advanced life support, as necessary.
20. Sick animals must be isolated from other animals on the set and will not be permitted to work. When possible, sick animals shall be removed from the set.
21. All working conditions, including special effects, shall be discussed in advance with the animal handler. All animals should be trained to work around any loud noises or pyrotechnic special effects that may be used at the filming location. Other special effects such as artificially created fog, haze, fire effects, etc., could potentially be unsafe for certain animals.
22. The procedures for dealing with firearms previously issued by the Industry Wide Labor-Management Safety Committee, Safety Bulletin #1: "*Recommendations for Safety with Firearms and Use of "Blank Ammunition"*", and Safety Bulletin #2: "*Special Use of "Live Ammunition"*" shall be observed. The level of ammunition loads should be determined in consultation with the animal handler and the firearms expert.
23. The animal handler must be notified when helicopters, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), or any other equipment that may distract or affect the animal are used
24. The animal handler must be notified when any non-working and/or service animals are present. This includes any animals that may be

living at a location set. All non-working animals must always be contained and/or restrained and supervised. Bringing non-working animals, such as personal pets, to the filming location should be discouraged.

25. The animal handler must be notified when the production is considering using any privately owned animals from the cast or crew and has determined the animal is appropriate. Owners of these animals must:
- Be responsible for the well-being and care of the animal.
 - Ensure their animals have adequate water and shelter.
 - Make sure their animals are well-trained and socialized with other animals and people.
 - Provide proof of required license and vaccinations for the animal.
 - Ensure the animals are always under their control.