



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA

Employee Safety Guide:

Working with Farm Animals and Untrained Horses



Work safely. Stay aware.
Know when to stop work.



YOUR SAFETY
COMES FIRST



BE AWARE
OF RISKS



SPEAK UP



LOOK OUT FOR
EACH OTHER



SAFE WORK. STRONG
COMMUNITY.
WILDCAT PRIDE.





SAFE WORK. EVERY TIME.

Plan ahead. Use good judgment.
Protect people and animals.



PURPOSE

Provide a clear, simple approach to working safely with large animals.

Your safety. Their welfare. Our priority.



SCOPE

Applies to all University of Arizona employees who work with, handle, or are near large animals on campus or in the field.



CORE SAFETY PRINCIPLES



**YOU HAVE
STOP-WORK AUTHORITY.**

If something doesn't feel safe—STOP.

Speak up. Get help.
It's okay to stop the job.



PLAN THE TASK BEFORE ENTRY

Assess risks, review animal history, and prepare your equipment and plan.



USE TRAINED ANIMALS WHEN POSSIBLE

Trained animals are more predictable and safer to handle.



MATCH THE HANDLER TO THE TASK

Experience, skills, and confidence must fit the animal and situation.



USE THE HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS

Eliminate risks when possible, then substitute, engineer, administrative controls, and PPE.

NEVER WORK ALONE WITH AN UNTRAINED OR UNPREDICTABLE LARGE ANIMAL

Always ensure help is available.

PROTECT PEOPLE AND ANIMAL WELFARE

Safe practices support humane and ethical care.

SPEAK UP. ASK QUESTIONS. SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.





ASK. LEARN. SPEAK UP.
**IT'S HOW WE
LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER.**

If something doesn't feel right,
stop and talk to your supervisor.



1. REQUIRED BEFORE ASSIGNMENT

- ☒ Receive task-specific instruction and written procedures.
- ☒ Supervisor reviews hazards, controls, and PPE.
- ☒ Know the emergency plan: alarms, exits, equipment, and contacts.
- ☒ Speak the plan back to your supervisor.



2. TRAINING AND COMPETENCY

- ☒ Demonstrate competency before working independently.
- ☒ Practice the task under direct supervision.
- ☒ Ask questions and confirm you understand.

Retraining is provided when tasks,
equipment, or hazards change.

3. COMMUNICATION STANDARD

We use clear, direct commands to prevent errors.

STOP

Stop all
motion.

OPEN

Open a guard,
door, or valve.

CLOSE

Close a guard,
door, or valve.

CLEAR

Ensure the
area is clear.

RELEASE

Release
stored energy.



**BE A WILDCAT.
BE SAFETY STRONG.**



NOT SURE?

Ask your supervisor.



SEE A HAZARD?

Report it.



SPEAK UP.

We look out for each other.



LIVESTOCK HANDLING

SAFE ANIMALS. SAFE PEOPLE.

Animals are strong, quick, and have a flight zone. Use calm behavior, good facilities, and the right tools to keep everyone safe.

DO

-  **Approach calmly** — move slowly, speak quietly
-  **Use the flight zone** — position at the shoulder
-  **Wear required PPE** — gloves, boots, long pants
-  **Use proper tools** — sorting sticks, panels, chutes
-  **Keep escape routes clear** — know your exit
-  **Work in pairs** — never handle large animals alone
-  **Secure gates and latches** — check before entering
-  **Report injuries immediately** — no matter how minor



BIOSECURITY:
PROTECT ANIMALS.
PROTECT YOURSELF.



WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE AND AFTER ANIMAL CONTACT.



COVER CUTS AND ABRASIONS WITH A BANDAGE.



DISINFECT EQUIPMENT AND FOOTWEAR BETWEEN FACILITIES OR SPECIES.

REPORT INJURIES IMMEDIATELY:
BITES, SCRATCHES,
NEEDLESTICKS, AND FEVERS.



DO NOT

DO NOT WRAP LEAD ROPES OR STRAPS: Never wrap around your hand, arm, or body. You can be pulled in or dragged.

DO NOT STAND IN KICK ZONES OR BLIND SPOTS: Stay away from behind animals and never crouch near their hind legs.

DO NOT YELL, HIT, OR USE EXCESSIVE FORCE: This increases fear and can cause animals to panic.

DO NOT WORK ALONE WITH LARGE OR UNPREDICTABLE ANIMALS: Have a partner or communicate your location and plan.

DO NOT BLOCK CHUTES, GATES, OR LANES: Keep pathways clear for animals and people.

DO NOT GET DISTRACTED: Avoid phone use, headphones, and talking while handling animals.

DO NOT RUSH: Take your time. Calm handling prevents injuries and stress to animals.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Call or text 911 for all emergencies.

Report immediately:

- Serious injury (bite, kick, crush, fall)
- Needlestick or chemical splash
- Loose or escaped animal
- Near miss (could have caused injury)
- Heat illness (confusion, vomiting, collapse)

Do not wait. Do not "walk it off."
Tell your supervisor right away.



Never use Electronics while
handling any untamed Animal

PPE, HEALTH, HEAT & EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Sturdy closed-toe, non-slip footwear. Steel toe when working with large animals.



Gloves as the task permits. Leather for handling; nitrile for chemicals or biologicals.



Long pants required. No shorts in animal areas.



Splash goggles or face shield when handling chemicals, biologicals, or high-pressure wash.



Respirator only when required and you are fit-tested and compliant. Ask your supervisor.



Hearing protection when noise is loud or prolonged (power tools, confined barns).



ASTM/SEI-certified helmet required for all mounted work. No exceptions.



Sun-protective clothing + water access. Wide-brim hat, long sleeves, sunscreen SPF 30+.



MOUNTED WORK: EXTRA REQUIREMENTS

ARIZONA HEAT: KNOW THE DANGER

- Drink water every 15-20 min - do NOT wait until thirsty
- Seek shade during breaks
- Take scheduled recovery breaks (cool-down periods)
- New staff: acclimatize gradually over 7-14 days
- Use the buddy system - watch each other for heat illness signs



WORK SMART. STAY SAFE. LOOK OUT.

Protect yourself, your team, and the animals.



RESOURCES & REGULATIONS



KEY CONTACTS

- UA EHS Main Line: (520) 626-6850
- IACUC Office: (520) 621-3513
- Risk Management: (520) 621-1790
- Campus Police (non-emergency): (520) 621-8273
- **Emergency: Call or Text 911**

See Something, Say Something
Communication is Key



Work Smart. Stay Safe. Look Out.

Protect yourself, your team, and the animals.
Ask questions. Speak up. Look out for each other.
Your safety comes first — every shift, every task.

OSHA Heat Stress Training / Resources

