

# Paradise Ranch

## "Horse Sense-Volunteer Guidelines"

*The following are pointers for volunteers while working at Paradise Ranch!*

- Approaching**      When approaching a horse, speak in a low voice and walk to the shoulder slowly. Never approach from directly behind as they may not see you and startle.
- Do not take feed into the field with the herd of horses!
- Stall**              When getting a horse from the stall, go inside with the animal to halter him closing the door behind you. Do not reach over the stall door.
- When returning the horse to the stall, allow the horse to go in and turn to face the door which is pulled shut with you inside. Remove the halter and lead and leave without opening the door too wide then close and latch.
- Tied**                If a tied horse pulls back, talk to him quietly and release the knot or crosstie. The crossties have quick release snaps on one end. This quick release snap is to be attached to the pole and not to the halter. Walk the horse forward and retie.
- If a horse is standing tied while tacked, place the stirrups in the up position with one stirrup through the reins. This will keep the reins from flopping and getting loose enough for the horse to catch a foot in.
- Never tie with the reins or a lead shank (lead with a chain on the end). Use a halter and lead rope or crosstie. When tying to a pole or trailer, always use a quick release knot.
- Try to keep horses in center of crossties to eliminate pulling back and interfering with neighboring horses.
- Working Around**      When walking behind a horse, keep your hand on the rump and pass close to his body to let the horse know where you are.
- Do not squat or kneel beside a horse. Bend over to reach the low spots and stay on your feet.
- Do not pass under the horse's neck when tied or held.
- Avoid sudden movements, especially around the head.

Horses are sensitive in the ears. Work equipment gently around the ears.

Never stick your head under or crawl under the horse's body.

## **Equipment**

Halters are to fit fairly loose and each halter has been sized for the horse who wears it. Do not tuck in the tab after buckling the halter.

Tighten the girth slowly-don 't pull up abruptly. Make many small adjustments as the horse relaxes. Remember to tighten the girth securely just *before* mounting.

Stirrups are to be run up whenever the horse is led.

Wipe bits off with a rag after use. Warm them before use in cold weather.

Return all tack to it's proper place so it can be found the next day. Keep all equipment off the ground.

Take halters off when the horses are turned out.

## **Leading**

Never wrap a lead or reins around a hand, wrist or body. Use a figure 8 with leads.

Keep both hands on leads or reins.

Do not let lead or reins drag on the ground. The horse may trip, break the equipment or leave. It also gets the tack dirty.

Always use a lead rope to lead the horse. Never lead from a halter alone. The horse may pull away and you will lose control or you may injure your shoulder. Do not use a crosstie to lead since it has buckles on both ends which could cause injury.

If the horse is being nippy while you are leading, step further back by his shoulder to eliminate his target.

Avoid loud, rough discipline with riders present. It may frighten them or the horse. Make a note of the behavior so it can be addressed through the horse exercise program.

If the horse steps on your toe, count to five while pushing your weight into his shoulder. He should step off. They do not step on toes purposely so there is no need to yell, hit or otherwise scare the rider or horse.

Keep at least one horse length between your horse and the horse in front of you.

**Treats and  
Feeding**

Never feed from the hand. Treats such as carrots and apples can be cut up and placed in the feed buckets.

When feeding hay, be sure all bale strings are thrown away and not left in the field.

**Be sure all lights are off!!!!**

**Be sure all gates are securely latched  
before you leave!!!!**