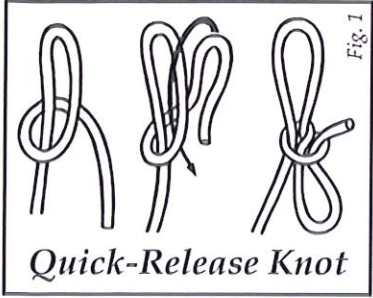


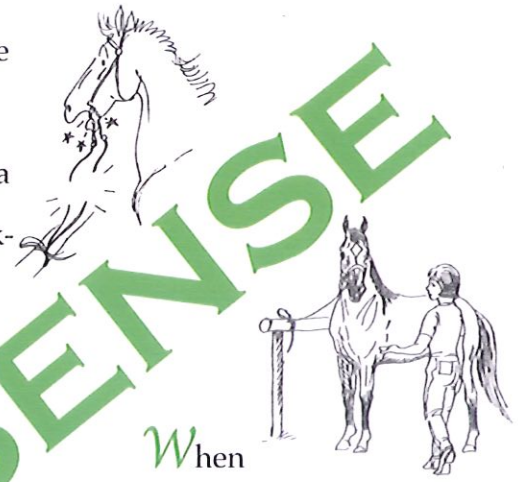
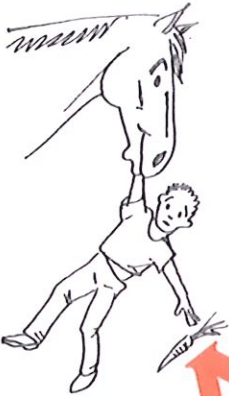
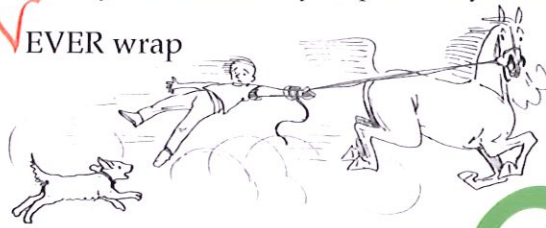
Always wear closed toed shoes or boots when working around horses. Sneakers are acceptable, but boots are preferred.

When grooming or tacking, the horse should be tied with a quick-release knot at the ring bolted through the stall wall, cross tied in the aisle or held by someone else. Always use a halter and lead rope to tie your horse and never tie with the reins. Learn the quick-release knot. (see fig. 1) Once a horse is bridled, he must be held by someone rather than tied up.



Work mainly from the sides of the horse. When passing from one side to the other, pass in front, staying close and touching him the entire time. Do not duck under the horse's neck.

Keep all grooming utensils and other stable equipment neatly out of the way to prevent you or the horse from tripping or stepping on it. NEVER wrap or tie a lead rope or rein around yourself. Horses must never be hand fed. This will encourage the biting habit. Fingers feel like carrots.



When approaching a horse, always talk in a calm steady tone, making slow steady movements toward him.

NEVER yell, scream, jump or run around. Always approach from where

the horse can see you - from the side, not from directly in front or behind. When working around the horse, watch for any change in stance or attitude (nipping or biting, ears laid back, sudden nervousness, pawing, kicking, shifting from side to side, etc...) and report this negative

behavior to the instructor. Pet the horse in a gentle and steady manner. Do not be sudden and hurried as this may startle the horse. Know the horse with which you are working. If you are unfamiliar with a horse, ask another volunteer to help you while you get to know the horse. Keep your reactions under control. Act confidently and NEVER lose your temper. Be firm, fair and consistent. Do not tease the horse. If ever

you become scared or frustrated with performing a task, calmly step away and ask the instructor, instructor's assistant or another volunteer for help or guidance until you become more confident and adept in your horsemanship skills. Praise often, punish seldom. Stop, look and listen. Remember, a frightened horse is potentially a dangerous animal. Listen and learn. Always listen for directives from your instructor and act promptly. Keep alert at all times when around horses.

# SAFETY & HORSE SENSE