Working with Large Animals

Can youth do this job safely?

Youth must be able to do/have all of the following to perform this job safely:

- Avoid loose clothing, clothes with strings, tie up long hair
- Comfortable around large animals
- Good peripheral vision
- Recognize a hazard, problem solve, and respond appropriately
- React quickly to hazards
- Maintain access to and reach escape route
- Mature enough to consistently do what is expected
- Think through actions and consequences before acting
- Safely demonstrate the job 4 to 5 times
- Maintain two-way communication link



Adult Responsibilities

- Comply with the working outdoors guideline
- Verify ventilation system is working properly
- Ensure equipment is mechanically sound and safety features are in place
- Ensure work area is as free from as many hazards as possible
- Educate youth on avoiding/addressing remaining hazards
- Provide appropriate training
- Establish an escape route/plan
- Confirm animals are free of disease and injuries
- Provide youth with herding tool/sorting stick
- Demonstrate how to safely work with large animals

Supervision

Note: These guidelines are meant for working with large animals. Younger youth may be able to show animals and ride trained horses safely, depending on the temperament of the animal and the environment of the activity.

12-15 yrs	Constant supervision progressing to intermittent
16+ yrs	Intermittent supervision progressing to periodic

Hazards



Slippery/ uneven surface | Animal contact | Zoonotic disease | Weight | Pinch point

Protective Strategies



Steel-toed non-skid shoes | Handwashing | Gloves (if needed) | Respiratory protection (if needed) | Communication tool



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