



American Humane Association



*Film & TV Unit*  
NO ANIMALS WERE HARMED®

**Guidelines  
for the  
Safe Use of  
Animals in  
Filmed Media**

American Humane Association



**Film & TV Unit**  
NO ANIMALS WERE HARMED®

**When Using Animals, Call the American Humane Association  
Early in Pre-production**

American Humane Association’s Film & Television Unit

Phone: 818-501-0123

FAX: 818-501-8725

E-Mail: [filmunit@americanhumane.org](mailto:filmunit@americanhumane.org)

Web site: [www.americanhumane.org/film](http://www.americanhumane.org/film)

Registration forms and these *Guidelines* are available online

**Questions or concerns about animals on a film?**

Call American Humane’s 24-Hour Animal Safety Hotline: 800-677-3420

**Table Of Contents**

A Legacy of Protection Since 1940 .....	3
Basic Principles .....	4
Definitions .....	4
Producers’ Checklist .....	5
Problem Solving/P.R. Checklist .....	7
<b>Ch. 1 General Guidelines</b> .....	9
<b>Ch. 2 Veterinary Care Guidelines</b> .....	15
<b>Ch. 3 Guidelines for Production, Cast, &amp; Crew</b> .....	17
<b>Ch. 4 Costume, Make-up, Rigging, &amp; Props</b> .....	19
<b>Ch. 5 Location and/or Set Safety</b> .....	21
<b>Ch. 6 Special Effects</b> .....	27
<b>Ch. 7 Stunts</b> .....	33
<b>Ch. 8 Species Specific Guidelines</b> .....	35
Dogs.....	35
Domestic Cats.....	39
Birds.....	41
Fish .....	43
Insects & Arachnids .....	47
Horses and Livestock .....	49
Exotic Animals .....	65
Primates .....	67
Reptiles .....	73
Amphibians.....	75
Wildlife .....	77
Special Thanks .....	79

## American Humane Association



### *Film & TV Unit*

**NO ANIMALS WERE HARMED®**

The American Humane Association believes that all animals should be treated humanely throughout their lifespan. We celebrate the special role animals play in our families and our lives. Animals appearing in film and television are testaments to the human/animal bond through their interaction with their trainers, with their cast and crew members, and ultimately through their effect on audiences. The American Humane Association's mission is to protect these animals so that they are treated humanely with the respect and compassion they deserve.

*[www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org)*

**American Humane Association**

**Film & Television Unit**

15366 Dickens Street

Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

(818) 501-0123

Fax: (818) 501-8725

**American Humane Association**

**National Headquarters**

63 Inverness Drive East

Englewood, CO 80112

(303) 792-9900

Fax: (303) 792-5333

## Protect Your Animal Actors Protect Your Production

### **American Humane Association Oversight: Codified in the SAG/Producer's Agreement Since 1980**

The American Humane Association works with producers to facilitate safe, effective, and efficient performances by animal actors. Your production will greatly benefit from the American Humane Association's extensive experience meeting the unique needs of both animal actors and filmmakers.

**You want your production to carry the trademarked  
"No Animals Were Harmed"® End Credit Disclaimer!**

The American Humane Association is the only animal welfare organization:

- Built into the SAG-Producers Codified Agreement
- Able to document a production's humane care of animals
- Authorized to issue the official End Credit Disclaimer "No Animals Were Harmed"®
- Able to credibly and objectively report on the animal action when public concerns arise or animal accidents happen on a particular set

The American Humane Association does not charge for its services on domestic SAG productions filmed in the United States. If filming a non-SAG project, or filming outside the U.S., please contact American Humane.

### **American Humane's Comprehensive Role**

#### **Pre-Production**

- Assistance to evaluate/mitigate risk factors
- Collaboration to determine safe options and alternatives
- Access to information on various species, humane issues, animal experts

#### **On the Set**

- Humane treatment of animals
- Reduced liability risks
- Animal safety, which yields greater cast and crew safety
- Increased protection from unwarranted controversies

#### **Post-Production**

- Response to public inquiry throughout a production's distribution life
- Assistance as liaison with media, regulatory agencies, and individuals requesting information about the animal action

#### **Marketing**

- Trademarked "No Animals Were Harmed"® End Credit Disclaimer, which reassures audiences
- Film ratings and reviews online at [www.americanhumane.org/film](http://www.americanhumane.org/film)
- American Humane Association posters and products as set dressings

**Contact American Humane Early in the  
Pre-Production Process  
(818) 501-0123**



## A Legacy of Protection Since 1940

The motion picture and television production industries have endorsed a high standard of animal care as outlined in these *Guidelines for the Safe Use of Animals in Filmed Media* by the American Humane Association. On the set, the American Humane Association's Certified Animal Safety Representatives ensure the *Guidelines* are upheld; advise production on safety issues; document all animal action and care; and serve as independent, professional, objective witnesses to the treatment and well-being of animal actors. American Humane's oversight includes film, television, commercials, music videos, and computer images. All production oversight is coordinated by the American Humane Association's Film & Television Unit in Los Angeles.

At its most fundamental level, American Humane's role is to prevent legally defined cruelty to animal actors. In reality, the industry today is primarily composed of caring and responsible individuals. American Humane's role also has evolved to that of safety expert and animal advocate. American Humane works proactively and collaboratively with filmmakers beginning early in pre-production, during filming, through the project's release or airing, and throughout the entire distribution life of the production.

American Humane advocates that each production meet the standards set forth in these *Guidelines* and provides ongoing support on how to do so. Productions that collaborate with American Humane and meet this standard of care qualify for American Humane's trademarked and registered "No Animals Were Harmed"® End Credit Disclaimer. The determination of this award can only be made after filming is complete, all documentation submitted, and a screening of the locked picture provided. All End Credits are alpha-numerically coded and cannot be transferred to non-qualifying productions.

**Production is responsible for contacting American Humane when animals are to be used. It is not the responsibility of the trainer/wrangler/supplier to do so. Only American Humane's on-set supervision can qualify a production for official End Credit Disclaimer eligibility.**

## **BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR THE SAFE USE OF ANIMALS IN FILMED MEDIA**

- American Humane's *Guidelines* prescribe a high standard of care that the film and television production industries have voluntarily agreed to provide to animal performers. This standard is more comprehensive and more compassionate than any state's anti-cruelty laws.
- American Humane's *Guidelines* apply to all animals used in the production, even if an animal is used as background or off camera to attract the attention of another animal being filmed.
- Animals are not props! (Even if they are supplied by the props department.)
- No animal will be killed or injured for the sake of a film production.
- American Humane will not allow any animal to be treated inhumanely to elicit a performance.
- Although permitted for necessary veterinary care, general anesthesia and sedation are high-risk procedures and are prohibited for the sole purpose of filmmaking.
- Storytelling needs of producers can be achieved humanely by working with American Humane and adhering to American Humane's *Guidelines*.
- Documentary-style footage/stock footage acceptable to American Humane's mission cannot include scenes that represent actual harm to an animal, even if filmed as non-fiction "newsreel" footage. Such harm, although possibly historic, is considered exploitation of the animal's suffering for the sake of entertainment. Any scene depicting harm must be simulated.
- Reality or non-scripted entertainment acceptable to American Humane's mission may only include scenes that do not show real harm to a live animal.
- **American Humane and American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives will enforce all applicable anti-cruelty laws.**

## **DEFINITIONS**

- **ANIMAL** is defined as all sentient creatures – including birds, fish, reptiles, and even insects.
- **ANIMAL HANDLER** is any person with the responsibility of feeding, watering, cleaning, manipulating, loading, crating, shifting, transferring, immobilizing, restraining, treating, training, working, or moving any animal. The term animal handler includes, but is not limited to, animal coordinators, wranglers, historic re-enactors, and any other member of cast or crew, or private party, providing or taking responsibility for an animal (for example, the props or stunts department). Animal handler may include veterinarians who are on set for the purpose of ensuring the health of an animal.

- **MOTION PICTURE or FILMED MEDIA** are terms that include – but are not limited to – film, television, music video, and computer images. These terms are used interchangeably throughout these *Guidelines*.
- **HUMANE** means marked by an emphasis on humanistic values and concerns; characterized by kindness, mercy or compassion.
- **INHUMANE** means lacking pity or compassion for another living being.
- **EQUINE** means horse, pony, mule, or donkey.
- **HARMED** is defined as physical injury or damage; having had pain or loss or suffering inflicted.
- **HOT LOADING** is defined as transferring animals onto or off of an aircraft with engine and rotors/propellers running.
- **COLD LOADING** is defined as transferring animals onto or off of an aircraft when engines and rotors/propellers are not running.
- **ANIMAL SUBSTITUTES** are fake, animatronic, computer generated images (CGI), or other techniques used to simulate live animals.

## **PRODUCERS' CHECKLIST FOR WORKING WITH THE AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION**

**Notify American Humane early in pre-production that animals will be used in your project.** A timely and collaborative relationship with American Humane can help your production work with animals safely, humanely, and efficiently. Maintaining a transparent, cooperative partnership during production allows us to effectively respond to public and media inquiries. American Humane also can be a valuable asset to your marketing and publicity efforts during distribution or airing.

### **Pre-Production and Principal Photography Checklist**

- American Humane needs information to accurately document your responsible use of animals. Provide us with:
  - ♦ A copy of the script (early in pre-production) and any edits relating to animal action.
  - ♦ The names of the animal handlers and veterinarian as soon as they are selected.
  - ♦ The location or types of film sets and environmental conditions to be encountered, as soon as they are determined.
  - ♦ The call sheets, crew lists, and script changes in a timely manner during filming to allow analysis of the animal action and appropriate assignment of American Humane personnel.
- Become informed about, and comply with, all relevant federal, state, and local laws, permits, and ordinances pertaining to the use of the animals. When filming in other countries, it is important to have early information regarding the laws concerning the import, export, and/or use of the intended species in those countries. Your animal handler should be able to provide this information. If not, American Humane may be able to assist you.

- ❑ Most animals used in “exhibition,” including motion pictures, are covered by the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The AWA requires the “exhibitor” to have the appropriate USDA and state permits. Professional movie industry animal handlers already have these permits.
- ❑ Cooperate with and facilitate American Humane’s documentation of the animals, their care, and how the animal action is performed, including photographs, receipts, veterinary records, or other appropriate materials.
- ❑ Provide demonstrations for cast and crew of any training or cueing methods, safety precautions, or animal action that might be misunderstood and/or raise concerns. Smart productions make sure that all cast and crew understand the animal care and animal action they are observing.
- ❑ Include American Humane in all safety meetings related to scenes with animals.
- ❑ Ensure that actors working with animals have adequate training and experience in advance with the types of animals to be used. Allow appropriate training and preparation time as needed to provide for both the actors’ safety and the humane treatment of the animals. This is especially important when using horses.
- ❑ Give it the personal touch. Tell your animal handlers, veterinarians, and crew members whose jobs impact animals (props department, pyrotechnics, stunt coordinators, makeup artists) that:
  - ◆ **You care!** Tell your crew that you are committed to the humane care of the animal performers. While this is normally understood on most productions, a specific instruction from the producer or the director can make a critical difference!
  - ◆ **You want American Humane’s “No Animals Were Harmed”® End Credit Disclaimer** and/or a favorable rating or review. This will alert animal handlers to collaborate with American Humane and provide timely and accurate information about all the animal action.
  - ◆ **American Humane is on the set!** Often just an announcement and the knowledge that American Humane is on the set provides your crew with the assurance that the animals are well cared for. Post signs in appropriate locations on the set. Include American Humane’s 24-hour hotline number: 800-677-3420. Include American Humane on your call sheets.
- ❑ Educate your crew and prevent accidents. Provide copies of American Humane’s *Guidelines* to:
  - ◆ All animal handlers and veterinarians.
  - ◆ All cast and crew members whose jobs impact animals. This may include assistant directors, props, makeup, costume, special effects, pyrotechnics, and others.
- ❑ Provide animal handlers with accurate information concerning the required animal action, the environment in which the animal will be required to perform, and the call time for the animal.
- ❑ Include studio teachers in safety meetings concerning animals if young performers will be working in their proximity.



## **PROBLEM SOLVING / PUBLIC RELATIONS CHECKLIST**

- ❑ During pre-production and principal photography: Consult with your animal handler and/or American Humane about potential public perception issues relating to specific species and/or stunts.
- ❑ During pre-production and principal photography: Provide American Humane with the names and phone numbers, including emergency numbers, of the executive producer and publicist to help coordinate a response to any animal emergencies.
- ❑ During principal photography: Encourage crew members to ask questions of American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives. This will assure the crew – your project's first audience – that you are following American Humane's *Guidelines* to ensure the safety and well-being of animals.
- ❑ During filming: Provide cast and crew with American Humane's 24-hour Animal Safety Hotline number for confidential inquiries and/or concerns: 800-677-3420.
- ❑ During post-production, publicity, and distribution: Provide American Humane with copies of the electronic press kit and other press information regarding the animal action so that American Humane can be prepared to respond to the questions they will stimulate.





## CHAPTER 1

# AMERICAN HUMANE'S GENERAL GUIDELINES

This section applies to ALL animals. Later sections will include additional specific guidelines by species.

Many of these guidelines are simply common sense; others have evolved from federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations. All local, state, and federal laws and regulations are applicable and can override these guidelines if they are more stringent.

American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives will monitor production sets to determine the following standards of humane treatment are met.

### **BEFORE FILMING BEGINS**

- 1-1 .....American Humane field personnel shall be granted access at all times to animals present at the filming location. Inspecting the animals is an important factor in documenting a production's care and treatment of the animals.
- 1-2\* .....Production Advisory: Production should only utilize animal handlers who are knowledgeable about the species of animal to be used and familiar with set protocol (also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #6.2 Animal Handling). Animal handlers shall be properly licensed through all appropriate agencies (e.g. USDA, state) with regard to the ownership, exhibition, and release of animals and have all the required current health certificates (also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #6.4 Animal Handling).  
**NOTE:** American Humane recommends that personal pets not be brought to filming locations. This recommendation applies to extras, crew, cast, visitors, or anyone on the set. Please also see Chapter 3 of these *Guidelines*.

- 1-3 .....American Humane staff, animal handlers, production company staff and veterinarians (when appropriate) should communicate and collaborate regarding the care and management of animals during preparation, rehearsal, and filming. When changes are made, all relevant parties listed above shall be informed immediately (also see Safety Bulletins Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee).
- 1-4\* .....All animals are to be transported safely, humanely, and in accordance with applicable laws. In certain situations, the USDA's transportation standards may apply and will be enforced by American Humane personnel.
- 1-5 .....When live animals are purchased or leased for a scene (e.g., hamsters, goldfish, baby chickens) and are later returned to the seller or owner or are adopted at the end of filming, a receipt or other documentation must be submitted to American Humane indicating that the animals were returned or received in good health and condition. Production and/or animal handlers shall exercise care in ensuring that animals are placed in appropriate adoptive environments.
- 1-6 .....Animals should never be left unattended or unsecured in a fashion that would be unsafe or uncomfortable for the animal.
- 1-7 .....No alcohol shall be used around animals at any time (also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #6.14 Animal Handling).
- 1-8 .....Only animals that are in appropriate condition to work shall be used. Animals that are underweight, overweight, or otherwise not in appropriate physical condition to perform the required work shall not be used. American Humane shall have the authority to determine the fitness of an animal.
- 1-9 .....Animals should be trained and prepared in advance to perform the required action.
- 1-10 .....Nothing can be done to an animal that will cause permanent harm or permanently alter its physical characteristics.
- 1-11 .....After traveling, animals should be allowed adequate time to rest and acclimate prior to beginning work as determined by the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative.

**HOUSING OF ANIMALS** (*Includes personal pets; please see Chapter 3 of these Guidelines.*)

- 1-12 .....Animals coming from different facilities and/or locations must be housed in such a manner as to allow for the prevention of sickness and spread of disease.
- 1-13 .....When animals coming from different facilities and/or locations will be housed together, they must be properly acclimated and introduced to each other under supervision to prevent any stress or injury due to compatibility problems.

- 1-14\* .....All animals must be maintained in facilities that provide proper humane care for each species of animal. American Humane will determine whether facilities for shelter and protection are:
- a. Safe from sharp objects that may cause injury
  - b. Temperature-controlled when necessary for the health or comfort of the animal
  - c. Well-ventilated
  - d. Located in an area that minimizes stress
  - e. Kept in a sanitary condition
  - f. Constructed to prevent escape
- \* In certain situations, the USDA's temporary housing standards applicable to traveling exhibitors may apply.
- NOTE:** See species-specific guidelines for additional requirements.
- 1-15 .....The production, cast, crew, and animal handlers must supply all animals with adequate water, shade, and protection from the cold, rain, heat, snow, and other elements both on and off camera. This also applies to any background, unscripted animals, and animals privately owned by cast or crew members. Animals must be observed for physical and mental changes that indicate discomfort.

### **LOOSE, STRAY, AND/OR FERAL ANIMALS AT A FILM LOCATION**

- 1-16\* .....When loose, stray, or feral animals appear at a film location, production must immediately notify the appropriate animal control agency or area shelter. At no time shall an actor, crew member, extra, or guest remove, take, or relocate an animal. The federal Animal Welfare Act, as well as most local animal agencies, prohibit this practice. Local animal control agencies are best equipped to find the owner or place the animal for adoption (also see the wildlife section of Chapter 7 of these *Guidelines*).

### **ANIMAL SUBSTITUTES, DEAD ANIMALS, ANIMAL PARTS**

- 1-17 .....American Humane encourages the use of animal substitutes for live animals when scenes call for the depiction of dangerous action. Fake animals, dead animals or animal parts, animatronics, CGI, or other techniques used to simulate live animals will be documented with photographs and receipts. This applies whether the simulations are provided or acquired through a service (CGI), a prop rental, or purchased as a food product. When appropriate, documentation to American Humane should include the name of the technician and the vendor company supplying the product or service, and/or any additional pertinent information.
- 1-18 .....If dead animals or animal parts are purchased from or provided by a taxidermist, an animal shelter, slaughterhouse, food supplier, or other source, American Humane must be provided with documentation that demonstrates that they were destroyed in the normal course of the source's operations and were not killed for the production.

- 1-19\* .....When finished filming dead animals or animal parts, production shall immediately dispose of them sanitarily by cremation or appropriate burial. Most states have laws regarding the disposition of dead animals. Production must check the appropriate agency in the filming area for proper procedures.
- 1-20 .....When handling dead animals or animal parts, care should be taken to prevent the spread of illness and disease. Wash hands with soap and warm water or an antibacterial agent after handling.

## **DURING FILMING**

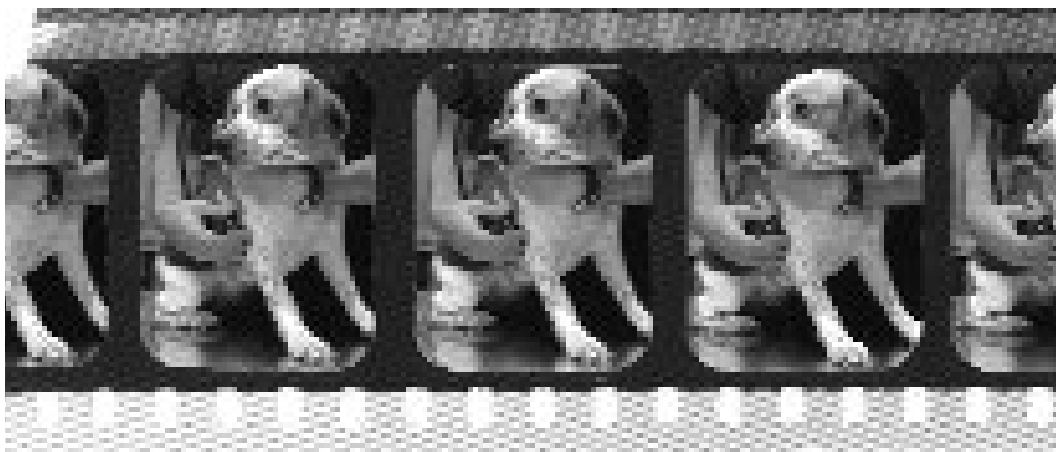
- 1-21 .....American Humane recognizes that unique or unforeseen situations may arise that might require on-site judgment differing from these Guidelines. American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives will make that judgment in the interest of the safety and welfare of the animal.
- 1-22 .....American Humane must witness all filming with animals in order to properly document their use. Production shall provide the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative(s) adequate placement during filming in order to witness all animal action. In certain circumstances, this may include having access to a monitor.
- 1-23 .....When anyone hears the words **“Unauthorized Shot,”** production must stop and fix the problem prior to filming. Otherwise, the production is at risk of being liable and not earning the **“No Animals Were Harmed”<sup>®</sup>** End Credit Disclaimer.
- 1-24 .....As part of standard practice, the production and animal handler shall be responsible for notifying American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives of any changes in animal action as soon as the change is made.
- 1-25 .....Production shall provide American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives with two-way radios when requested, such as during intense animal action; if the film set is so large American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives do not have a clear view of the entire area; when helicopters are utilized during filming; or if a large group of animals is being used.
- 1-26 .....American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives are the animal's voice and must be consulted and included in any and all safety meetings. Safety meetings will include all relevant cast and crew.
- 1-27 .....American Humane will closely monitor environmental conditions when there is a potential for severe weather (e.g., thunderstorms, lightning, high winds, hail, tornadoes, flash flooding, blizzards). In certain circumstances, American Humane may ask production and the animal handler to take steps to protect the animals and potentially remove them from set (also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #38 Severe Weather).
- 1-28 .....There shall be no fighting between animals. Aggressive animals must be isolated and/or removed by production from the filming location.
- 1-29 .....Adequate exercise and rest as determined or agreed to by the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative shall be provided for the animals during the shooting day.

\* Notes a federal, state, or local animal welfare statute, code, or permit consideration  
October 2005 - Film & Television Unit - Guidelines

- 1-30 .....Each animal's needs must be addressed individually, considering such factors as the species, age, and condition of the animal; the exertion required to accomplish the action; and the terrain, climate, and weather conditions. American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives and the animal handler will observe and monitor the animal's resting breathing rate. If an animal becomes fatigued or stressed, a rest period shall be provided before proceeding with additional takes.
- 1-31 .....When animals are on set, production shall proceed in a timely manner. Most accidents and misbehaviors occur when the animals get tired of standing around waiting for filming to begin.
- 1-32 .....All animals shall be given rest equal to or greater than their time working on set.
- 1-33\* .....No animal shall be allowed to become overheated, hypothermic, or put at risk in any way. American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives shall closely monitor animal action for any breach of the federal Animal Welfare Act or state and local animal cruelty laws and regulations, which clearly state that “**No animal shall be overridden, overdriven, overloaded, ill-treated...**”. Any violation will be reported to local law enforcement by the production and American Humane.
- 1-34 .....Animals must be checked daily for injury and/or illness.
- 1-35 .....Lame or ill animals may not be used until the condition has been corrected. Animals with mechanical (i.e., non-painful) limitations or defects that give the visual appearance of lameness or injury can be used only if a veterinarian has examined the animal, determined that using the animal in the manner intended will not cause pain or stress, and provided American Humane with a letter certifying that the animal is serviceably sound.
- 1-36 .....Care must be taken to ensure that animals do not escape the set or location. Production must also have a plan for their safe recapture should an accident or escape occur.
- 1-37 .....A sufficient number of adequately trained animal handlers, as determined or agreed to by the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative, must be utilized to protect the cast, crew, and animals.
- 1-38 .....Training and/or cueing equipment such as collars, leashes, muzzles, whips, and other devices must be used safely and humanely under the supervision of American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives.
- 1-39 .....**The use of electronic shocking devices such as shock collars and/or prods are not permitted by American Humane as a humane training device and are not permitted during performance.** However, should the safety of an animal be better served by the use of a remote command device, particularly when livestock are used in remote locations, that device and its use must have prior approval by American Humane and be supervised by American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives.
- 1-40 .....No animal shall be put under stress or in danger when used to attract the attention of another animal being filmed.

- 1-41 .....When cueing an animal to get a reaction shot, only noise or visual stimuli shall be used. At the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative's discretion, the least amount of noise or visual stimuli should be used to get the desired reaction.
- 1-42 .....All animal fights (such as dog, bull, and cock fights), hunting, fishing, and scenes depicting the death of an animal shall be simulated. No real animal fight can be disguised as a simulated fight by the use of muzzles. Aggressive animals shall be isolated and/or removed from the filming location by production.





## CHAPTER 2 VETERINARY CARE GUIDELINES

- 2-1\* .....All animals used in filmed media should be vaccinated based on veterinary standards for their species. Documentation of this must be provided to American Humane upon request.
- 2-2 .....Use of Veterinarians:
- a. American Humane shall be made aware of any veterinarian on set. In order to properly document the use of animals in filmed media, production and the animal handler shall ensure that there is open communication between American Humane and the veterinarian.
  - b. The veterinarian(s) used for filming should have working experience and knowledge of the species of animals being utilized (e.g. specializing in exotic, avian, livestock, etc.).
  - c. When different species of animals are utilized, there may be a need for more than one veterinarian to ensure all animals are properly cared for using techniques particular to their species.
  - d. Veterinarian(s) must be located to ensure availability in case of an emergency. Contact information for the veterinarian should be provided to American Humane and should be placed on the call sheet.
  - e. A veterinarian should be present on the set when filming in locations so remote (~1 hour away) that local veterinarians could not respond quickly to an animal emergency.
  - f. Veterinarian(s) shall be present at all times during the rehearsal and filming of scenes with strenuous or risky stunts, special effects, extensive running, or very large numbers of animals, which may create a risk of injury (e.g., racing scenes, battles, stampedes, charges, runaways, or wagon crashes). (Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #6.8 Animal Handling.)

\* Notes a federal, state, or local animal welfare statute, code, or permit consideration  
October 2005 - Film & Television Unit - Guidelines  
© 1994-2005 American Humane Association. All rights reserved.

- g. Additional veterinarians may be required when animals are to be used on sets at different locations or units.
- 2-3 .....To address animal emergencies involving injury, illness, death, or allegation of abuse, the following should be considered:
- a. The establishment of a communications system to quickly report information to local law enforcement and executive offices of American Humane.
  - b. Facilities for the holding, restraint, or examination of animals by a veterinarian.
  - c. Transportation arrangements for evacuating sick or disabled animals from remote or difficult-to-access locations.
  - d. The ability to humanely relieve pain or euthanize animals suffering from severe injury or illness.
  - e. Independent oversight of international investigations and the report issued to local animal control agency.
- 2-4 .....If an animal is injured, sick, or becomes incapacitated, it shall receive immediate medical care. Such an animal shall not resume work until the veterinarian determines that the condition has been corrected. If veterinary care is required, the veterinarian shall assess the extent of the injury and send a copy of his or her report to American Humane. American Humane staff may accompany the animal to the veterinarian's office and remain until a diagnosis/prognosis is made.
- 2-5 .....In the event of a death or an injury resulting in the subsequent euthanasia of an animal during production, a necropsy of the animal must be performed. The result of the necropsy shall be provided to American Humane.
- 2-6 .....No drugs, including anesthetics, sedatives, and chemical laxatives, may be administered to an animal for the purpose of filmmaking. Under certain circumstances and with prior approval by both American Humane and the animal's veterinarian, the administration of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs may be permitted.
- 2-7 .....Animals known to be pregnant will not be used in intense action scenes.
- 2-8 .....The birth of animals shall not be induced for filming purposes. The natural birth of animals may be filmed "documentary style," which means that filming shall have no impact on the birth process and no actors will appear in the birth scene. A veterinarian must be present, and crew shall be limited to the minimum necessary for filming. American Humane shall remain on set at all times to adequately monitor the health and welfare of the animals being filmed. To prevent the spread of disease, strict bio-security measures such as hand-washing and foot-baths shall be in place for all persons entering and leaving the set. No other animals may appear in scenes involving an actual birth process.
- 2-9 .....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.



## CHAPTER 3

# GUIDELINES FOR PRODUCTION, CAST, AND CREW

**NOTE:** Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #8, 8A, 8B Insert Camera Vehicles, #22 Work & Boom Platforms, #25 Camera Cranes.

- 3-1 .....**Quiet on the Set:** At the animal handler's discretion, all non-essential personnel, with the exception of the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative(s), may be removed from the set during animal stunts, action, or whenever wild or exotic animals are performing (also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #6.3 Animal Handling).
- 3-2 .....Cast and crew shall not be allowed to pet, fondle, or play with animals off camera if the animal handler or American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative believes it is unsafe or not in the best interest of the animal.
- 3-3 .....As necessary for the concentration and safety of the animals, cast and crew members shall limit distracting motion, noises and smells, such as food and perfume. In some cases, catering services may need to be moved away from the animal action. Animal handlers shall provide production and American Humane with pertinent instructions in writing for each species and/or individual animal, as appropriate. These instructions must be attached to the call sheet.
- 3-4 .....American Humane's *Guidelines for the Safe Use of Animals in Filmed Media* apply to anyone bringing an animal to the filming location. This includes non-working animals. All *Guidelines*, including, but not limited to, proof of vaccination, adequate housing, food, water, exercise, prevention of escape, supervision, and temperature regulations, shall be followed.

- 3-5 .....No animal should, at any time, for any reason, be left in vehicles or trailers without proper ventilation/temperature regulation; improperly tethered\*; or left unattended. Check specific state and local laws and regulations, as tethering laws vary.
- 3-6 .....Non-working animals brought as pets to the filming location by cast, crew, guests, or extras are discouraged. A film set is considered an industrial area with numerous safety hazards for animals. Because cast and crew are working, American Humane feels that this is not an environment for pets as they cannot be supervised and cared for appropriately. Should non-working animals be brought to the filming location by cast, crew, guests, or extras, the animal must be contained and/or restrained and supervised at all times.
- 3-7 .....Non-working animals brought to the filming location by cast, crew, guests, or extras shall not be allowed on the set where other working animals are or will be present.



## CHAPTER 4

# COSTUMES, MAKEUP, RIGGING, AND PROPS

- 4-1 .....Costuming and/or props shall be made available to American Humane for inspection prior to filming. Animals shall be adequately conditioned and trained to wear or use all costumes or props. Costuming and/or props shall be comfortable, provide ease of movement, and shall not restrict the animal's breathing or cause the animal to overheat. Consideration should be given to how easily the costume can be removed in case of emergency.
- 4-2 .....Props used in stunts, such as spurs, sabers, swords, spears, barbed wire, or fences should all be made of rubber, balsa wood, or other non-injurious material.
- 4-3 .....All animal rigging and equipment must be in good condition and appropriate for the body type, weight, and size of the animal, as determined or agreed to by the animal handler, the property master, and American Humane.
- 4-4 .....Tie-downs, waist ties, and hobbles shall not be used on animals not properly trained to wear them. Animals shall not be tied or hobbled any longer than what is necessary to accomplish the shot.
- 4-5 .....Any colors, dyes, makeup, or adhesives used on animals must be toxin-free and approved by the animal handler and American Humane prior to filming. These products must be applied in a well-ventilated area. The animal handler shall provide American Humane with the product's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) or equivalent. Although a product may be toxin-free, it can still produce a severe adverse reaction when applied to animals. Spot tests shall be performed by production 24 hours or more prior to filming to guard against allergic reactions.
- 4-6 .....Before using adhesives, consideration must be given to its safe and painless removal. Appropriate tests shall be performed by production prior to filming and approved by the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative.





## CHAPTER 5

# LOCATION AND/OR SET SAFETY

- 5-1 .....The American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative and the animal handler shall inspect working areas prior to each day's rehearsal or filming to identify hazards, obstacles, or environmental conditions that may injure animals and people working with these animals.
- 5-2 .....Production and animal handlers shall familiarize themselves with local plant life that may be toxic to animals.
- 5-3 .....Safe footing shall be provided on any location or set as well as on any path to or from the location/set that an animal is required to traverse.
- a. An easily accessible area shall be available for loading and unloading animals (also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #6.5 Animal Handling).
  - b. When animals work on a studio stage, non-skid mats shall be placed in the area of action if needed to prevent slipping. When appropriate, non-skid boots on livestock shall also be used.
  - c. In outdoor locations, the area must be checked for railroad ties, holes, debris such as tree branches, roots, and stones that could trip an animal, or slick or unstable ground, street, or walkway conditions.
  - d. Stream bottoms must be cleared before being traversed by livestock.
  - e. Deep muck, mire, and quicksand must be avoided. If an animal is in these conditions, the physical condition of the animal and terrain must be observed and monitored before, during, and after the take. Scenery and props should be secured, as objects such as ladders or pedestals may tip over and startle animals (also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #6.11 Animal Handling).

- 5-4\* .....To ensure safety when animals work near or on railroad tracks or crossings, proof must be submitted to American Humane of communication with the railroad company or companies regarding train schedules. Care must be taken near railroad tracks so that the animals do not ingest creosote. Railroads are now protected by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, making trespassing a federal offense. (See also Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #28 Railroads.)
- 5-5 .....Obstacles that might strike an animal in the face or on the body as it traverses a scene shall be removed. For example, low hanging branches must be removed before riding or chase scenes. All nails, splinters, wires and other debris must be cleaned up or otherwise made safe for the animals.
- 5-6 .....Animals shall not be exposed to contaminants such as slow moving or stagnant water, putrid odors, and toxins.
- 5-7 .....Raised platforms must be large and strong enough to support the animals and tested prior to use by animals.

**AIRCRAFT SAFETY** (helicopters, airplanes, ultralights, gliders, hot air balloons)

**NOTE:** Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #3/3A Helicopters, #11/11A Fixed-Wing Aircraft, #29/29A Hot Air Balloons, #36 R/C Helicopters.

- 5-8 .....Animals must be adequately conditioned to work in and around aircraft prior to filming. Should animals become stressed, they shall be removed from the aircraft or filming area immediately.
- 5-9\* .....Production shall ensure that the pilot is properly licensed and follows all applicable FAA rules and regulations.
- 5-10 .....American Humane, the animal handler, and the pilot or aerial coordinator shall work together to ensure the safety of the animals. The pilot shall in no way be responsible for operating the camera when animals are being filmed.
- 5-11 .....When filming in remote locations, the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative should be included in location scouts pertaining to animal action.
- 5-12 .....Whether hot or cold loading, small animals such as cats, birds, reptiles, and rats must be loaded in cages or crates. Larger animals such as dogs or small livestock must, at minimum, be leashed or otherwise restrained and preferably carried onto and off of the aircraft. At no time should any animal handler approach an aircraft or helicopter without a clear and intentional signal from the pilot.
- 5-13 .....All animals, kennels, or other equipment must be secured before the aircraft leaves the ground.



- 5-14 .....Care must be taken to protect animals' eyes when near a running aircraft. When necessary and appropriate, the landing area should be cleared of debris and sprayed with water to keep dust and dirt at a minimum (i.e., rotor wash). (Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #3.17 Helicopters.)
- 5-15 .....The following safe distances are required whenever engine and rotors are running (R/C Aircraft exempt) to prevent animals from being injured by debris.
- a. Animals and animal handlers shall avoid the rear of an aircraft at all times.
  - b. Except when loading, and only at the pilot's discretion, animals shall never be closer than 50 feet to the front or sides of the aircraft when on the ground.
  - c. When an aircraft hovers or steadily flies directly above animals during filming, the aircraft shall not come closer than 100 feet.
  - d. When flying at other angles, the aircraft shall not come closer than 50 feet to any animal.
- 5-16 .....When an aerial sequence is to be performed, all persons involved – including all American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives – shall be thoroughly briefed on any potential hazards or safety issues prior to filming (also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #3 Helicopters).
- 5-17 .....Once airborne, no changes will be made that affect the animal action without notifying the animal handler and American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative.
- 5-18 .....Properly trained personnel must be available to assist in clear communication with the aircraft and the opening and securing of occupants, harnesses, and doors.

## **WATER SAFETY**

**NOTE:** Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #17 Water Hazards.

- 5-19 .....Before any animal is placed in or around water, whether for swimming or water crossing scenes, prior approval must be received from American Humane. Safety measures shall be reviewed with American Humane and demonstrated at American Humane's request.
- 5-20 .....Care should be taken regarding marine life, amphibians, and reptiles in and around water.
- 5-21 .....American Humane must be consulted prior to filming when animal jumps or falls into water are planned. The distance of the jump or fall will depend on the species of animal being used.
- 5-22 .....Water quality tests are to be performed to ensure the water is free from contaminants. Slow-moving, stagnant water, putrid odors, or toxins shall be avoided. Proof of an adequate water quality test shall be provided to American Humane prior to filming. Each species of animal is different in their tolerance of water contaminants. When in doubt, check with American Humane.

- 5-23 .....Tools and supplies should be supplied to rinse and dry animals after water work.
- 5-24 .....Depending on temperature conditions, animals should have warming areas and devices at the location where the water work is performed.
- 5-25 .....Swimming and water crossings must be reviewed in a safety meeting prior to filming. American Humane must be notified and invited to participate in this meeting. The safety meeting shall include all emergency plans should a river crossing or swimming scene encounter difficulties.
- 5-26 .....Swimming shall be limited to experienced animals, and strict attention must be given to the animal's logical limits of endurance. A plan for emergency rescue must be in place. If the water is swift, someone experienced in swift-water animal rescue should be consulted in the development of an emergency plan and should be on scene for the action.
- 5-27 .....Care must be taken so that animals do not become too chilled in swimming or water crossing scenes. When in doubt about an animal's temperature limits, consult American Humane.
- 5-28 .....Water flow rate and water depth must be computed to ensure the safety of all animals in water. The force of the water must not be so great as to endanger the animal in the water. As the speed of water doubles, the effective force of the water triples.
- a. The general rule for determining if the water is safe for animals is: the product of velocity in feet per second multiplied by the water depth, measured in feet. This product should be less than 10 for safety. To compute velocity, a small piece of wood, bark, or other floating debris can be tossed into the water and used as a floating "speed" reference as it travels between a pre-marked 10-foot section of water. Water depth is computed by using a simple ruler or measuring stick.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Water flows fastest at its surface. The deeper the water, the more force it will have, making footing for animals and conveyances difficult. Production should consult with local park rangers, a water district manager, or other expert to compute flow rates and provide such documentation to American Humane.

- 5-29 .....All managers of dams or levies located upstream within a five-mile distance shall be notified of the intended animal action. Proof of communication with any agency upstream that controls water level must be provided to American Humane. Contact numbers for such agencies, including emergency numbers, must be available for communication and provided to American Humane during preparation, rehearsals, and filming.

- 5-30 .....For waters such as streams, rivers, lakes and ponds, the bottoms shall be checked for uneven or otherwise unsafe footing. This shall include debris on the bottom such as holes, dips in terrain, rocks, logs, trash, or floating debris. The entrances and exits of water must be checked as well. As a general rule, if the animal or wagon it may be pulling can sink three inches into the bed of the water or on the bank, additional materials must be added to firm up the surfaces. Where uneven or unsafe underwater footing is found, alternate sites must be used or the area cleared of such debris and unsafe footing before being traversed by animals.
- 5-31 .....Above or underwater bridges or platforms may be used in situations where uneven or unsafe footing is found. Bridges and platforms must be constructed to support the weight of animals, persons, and/or equipment (such as wagons) crossing the water. The bridge or platform must be twice as wide as the widest object traversing it (this would include outriders to wagons) and must have a non-slip surface to ensure good footing for animals.
- 5-32 .....Underwater bridges and platforms must be constructed of wood that is arsenic- and creosote-free, or made of steel.
- 5-33 .....Special consideration shall be given to any and all wagons or conveyances connected to an animal, as these objects can and will float. To prevent floating, a wagon or conveyance must not be submerged up to the box of the wagon. When appropriate, wagons shall be weighed down.
- 5-34 .....When crossing moving water, there should be only one team of two animals harnessed to a wagon or conveyance.
- 5-35 .....When in water, quick release snaps or clevises must be used on the traces of animals in harness.
- 5-36 .....No tie-downs, bearing reins, or over-checks shall be used in water crossings or swimming involving animals.
- 5-37 .....American Humane requires that animal handlers designate a spotter or spotters placed along the route of the animals' water crossing. These individuals should be the only persons relaying suggestions or instructions, especially on how to manage an intense water situation.
- 5-38 .....Animal handlers and stunt personnel must carry knives able to cut through leather – preferably with recessed blades – to cut the Hames straps and leather traces and free the harnessed animals, allowing them to swim free in an intense water situation if necessary.
- 5-39 .....An adequate number of spotters must be placed upstream with radios to warn of floating debris or objects in the water, such as logs or loose equipment.
- 5-40 .....An adequate number of spotters with experience in swift-water animal rescue must be positioned downstream with radios and appropriate rescue equipment.





## CHAPTER 6 SPECIAL EFFECTS

6-1 .....All animals shall be conditioned to work around special effects such as explosions, gunfire, artillery, and pyrotechnics. American Humane may request a demonstration.

### **WATER EFFECTS**

6-2 .....No animal shall be subjected to extreme, forceful rain simulation. Water pressure and the velocity of any fans used to create this effect must be monitored at all times.

6-3 .....Rubber mats or other non-slip material or surface shall be provided when simulating rain. If effects call for mud, the depth of mud must be approved by American Humane prior to filming, and a non-slip surface shall be provided underneath the mud.

### **SNOW EFFECTS**

6-4 .....The use of plastic flakes, Jetex foam, flocking, synthetic snow blankets, gypsum, salt, rock salt, or aerosol shaving cream can harm some animals. This risk increases with the use of fans that may blow the snow. When animals are used with these effects, production must consult American Humane prior to filming.

6-5 .....Care must be taken to ensure that the materials are not ingested by animals.

### **STEAM EFFECTS**

6-6 .....Steam and pressure devices must never be used in enclosed areas where animals will be working.

## **SMOKE/ PHOTOGRAPHIC DUST EFFECTS**

**NOTE:** Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #10 Smokes, Fogs and Lighting Effects and the Safety and Health Awareness Sheet: Photographic Dust Effects (8/20/03).

- 6-7 .....Special effects products such as the use of carbon dioxide (“dry ice”) and artificial smoke are hazardous to certain animal species. Smoke effects shall be permitted only with prior approval from American Humane. Producers shall utilize minimum concentrations necessary, and all animals should have a rest period away from the set at appropriate intervals.
- 6-8 .....The following products shall never be used around animals: fumed and hydrolyzed chlorides; ethylene glycol; diethylene glycol; mineral oils; aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, including petroleum distillates; hexachloroethane; cyclohexylamine; oil crackers; Blitz Foggers; petroleum foggers; Spectrasmoke; fast-burning gray or black smoke; diesel fuel; naphthalene; titanium tetrachloride; black smoke liquid; kerosene; burning tires or rubber; and liquid nitrogen.
- 6-9\* .....Fuller’s earth contains silica, which is a known carcinogenic. OSHA and other agencies require monitoring of air when it is used. Crushed walnut shells and other airborne debris or particles can be inhaled by animals, causing respiratory distress. Black walnut shells are toxic to horses. Birds are extremely sensitive to airborne chemicals, materials, or pollutants. These substances should not be used around animals without first consulting with the animal handler and the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative.

## **FIRE EFFECTS/PYROTECHNICS**

**NOTE:** Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #16 Pyrotechnic Effects, #19 Open Flames.

- 6-10 .....When scenes including animals contain any fire effects, the fire must be controlled and the animals must be preconditioned to it, so as to avoid endangering them. If open fires are used, extra care must be taken to protect the animals’ coats and tails.
- 6-11 .....Prior approval must be received from American Humane before any effects involving sodium silicate, or water glass, are used around animals. This product is toxic if ingested and considered corrosive.
- 6-12 .....Fireballs from an air cannon shall not be used in scenes involving animals.
- 6-13 .....When scenes including animals contain open fires such as campfires or bonfires, the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative, working with the animal handler, shall determine a safe distance for the animal.
- 6-14 .....Unrestrained animals shall not be allowed near open fires. Animals shall not be restrained or tied near fire with any type of device that hinders the animal from moving away from the fire. The use of leashes or leads held off camera is a preferable and safe method. It is preferred that animal handlers in costume appear on camera with any animal near open fire to ensure the safety of animals being used.

\* Notes a federal, state, or local animal welfare statute, code, or permit consideration  
October 2005 - Film & Television Unit - Guidelines

- 6-15 .....Fire extinguishers (excluding CO2 safety equipment) should not be used around animals. Animals must be moved a safe distance away prior to utilization.

### **CHEMICAL EFFECTS**

- 6-16 .....Chemical effects should be avoided when animals are present. Many of the substances used to create mud, quicksand, luminous paint, bubbles, smoke, colored fire, spontaneous combustion, sparkles and sprinkles of fire, small explosions, colored water, and invisible ink are harmful to animals.  
Prior approval from American Humane is necessary when using chemical effects such as phosphorous, gasoline, silver nitrate, vermiculite, Fuller's earth, and sulfur.

### **WIRE FLYING AND LEVITATION**

- 6-17 .....Wire flying and levitation involving any animal shall be accomplished with proper equipment and harnessing and only with prior approval and consultation with American Humane.

### **WEAPONS, EXPLOSIONS, PYROTECHNICS**

NOTE: Also see Horse Guidelines, Chapter 8, and Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #1 Blank Ammunition, #6.7 Animal Handling, #16 Pyrotechnic Effects, #30 Sharp Props.

- 6-18 .....American Humane recommends the utilization of replicas or rubber prop guns whenever possible (also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #1.18 Blank Ammunition).
- 6-19 .....**No gun or explosive device shall be aimed directly at any animal.**
- 6-20 .....Animals working around any explosions and gunfire must be humanely trained and conditioned prior to filming. American Humane may ask for a demonstration of an animal's conditioning to explosions and gunfire.
- 6-21 .....Scenes calling for explosives or gunfire when any animal is present must be reviewed in a safety meeting. American Humane must be invited to participate in this safety meeting. **No animal shall work around explosives and/or gunfire until American Humane has given approval and is present to supervise.**
- 6-22 .....Explosives and gunfire can cause serious injury or death at close distances. There is no safe distance in front of explosives and gunfire—only safer distances. Eye injuries and powder burns are a risk.
- 6-23 .....When fired from horseback, the weapon shall be held at no less than a 45-degree angle to the horse's head to decrease the risk of powder flashes causing burns to the horse's corneas.
- 6-24 .....Shotguns, semiautomatic shotguns, and guns using blanks shall not be fired any closer than 25 feet from any animal.

- 6-25 .....Non-guns use squibs up the barrel to simulate a muzzle flash and shall never be fired closer than five feet from an animal.
- 6-26 .....Ammunition used around any working animals shall be limited to no more than quarter loads. Though an animal may be accustomed to loud noises, there is still a danger of damage to an animal's ears from the percussive force of the ammunition.
- 6-27 .....Cotton or another type of buffering device should be supplied for the animals' ears when they are in close proximity to shooting, explosives, or other loud noises. This is required unless the animal is deaf, or has been conditioned to the sounds and is positioned at a sufficient distance so that the noise will not injure the animal's hearing or eardrums. The animal shall be conditioned to having the material placed in its ears. The material is to be removed when the immediate action involving explosives is finished.
- 6-28 .....Gunfire, explosives, and non-guns shall never be used near enough to animals as to put them in jeopardy or subject them to powder burns. The level of explosives should be determined in consultation with the animal handler, the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative, and an explosives expert. The amount should be limited to the smallest amount of explosives possible to achieve the shot.
- 6-29 .....Animals shall be checked carefully after each take to ensure that they calm down. The number of takes shall be limited, and emergency procedures – including escape prevention – shall be in place.
- 6-30 .....Squibs must be positioned so as to avoid endangering the animals.
- 6-31 .....Chemicals and products used in explosions, such as (but not limited to) gasoline, diesel fuel, burning tires, naphthalene, titanium tetrachloride, sand, fuller's earth, and black walnut shells are toxic and may be harmful to some animals. Consult American Humane prior to using any of these substances.
- 6-32 .....**The naphthalene bomb is banned on sets when animals are present.**
- 6-33 .....Kickers, sparks, trunion guns, and DET cord shall only be used with prior approval from American Humane.
- 6-34 .....Animals shall never be struck with skin, dust balls, bullets, zirconium spark, steel balls, or glass hits. No "hit" shall be used so close to an animal as to cause it to directly strike or land near the animal, discharging particles. Productions shall demonstrate the device prior to any animal being used in conjunction with filming. The American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative will work with the animal handler to determine if the device will strike a safe distance from any animal.
- 6-35 .....Pyrotechnic bullet hit effects shall never be used around animals.
- 6-36 .....An experienced and licensed special effects person with excellent marksmanship shall be employed when using blowguns, air bellows, wireless arrow guns, wire-controlled guns, or compressed air delivery systems for "hits," or when firing darts, arrows, or knives.



6-37 .....American Humane shall inspect, in advance, any and all arrows, knives or spears prior to their use in any scene with animals.

### **UNDERWATER EXPLOSIVES**

6-38\* .....Underwater explosives cannot be used without proper approval from federal, state, and local agencies. Such proper approval must be documented and provided to American Humane. These agencies list numerous aquatic and semi-aquatic species that are protected, threatened, endangered, or of special concern. There is often more than one agency responsible for permitting underwater explosions within a given state. American Humane may consult local animal and environmental authorities regarding protected species issues in the specific location.

6-39\* .....Production shall notify American Humane prior to filming any underwater explosion and provide detailed information on explosive type, amount, size and number of charges to be detonated, blast radius and potential threats to all animals in the vicinity and their habitat. Careful measures must be taken by the production to prevent injury to fish, wildlife and their habitats.

### **OTHER SPECIAL EFFECT EQUIPMENT**

6-40 .....American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives will supervise the use of animals by large fans; the wind that fans produce can be dangerous to animals. Fans can also suck in debris that can injure or be inhaled by an animal, causing respiratory ailments.

6-41 .....When scenes employ simulated or real dust storms, blizzards, or rain, steps must be taken to protect the animal's eyes, ears, nose, and mouth as supervised by the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative.

6-42 .....Bubble machines use liquid detergent soap, which can be toxic to some animals. Consult American Humane prior to using any bubble machine around animals.

6-43 .....Only candy glass or the equivalent should be used for breakaway scenes. Tempered glass is not permitted.





## CHAPTER 7 STUNTS

The following *Guidelines* apply to all animals, including horses and other livestock, without regard to their prominence or insignificance to the production. As with the rest of these *Guidelines*, this section applies to all animals used in motion picture productions, including any privately owned animals furnished to the production by historic re-enactors, other private suppliers, stunt coordinators, directors, or any other members of the cast or crew.

In productions involving large numbers of animals (e.g., historic re-enactments), a responsible “chain of command” shall be established to coordinate the work during the production, and detail of such must be provided in writing to American Humane. The designated “commander” of each unit will be directly responsible for the conduct of the people and the care of the animals under his/her supervision.

- 7-1 .....Animals shall be adequately trained, conditioned, and prepped for stunts. American Humane shall have the jurisdiction to pull any animals deemed unfit for use.
- 7-2\* .....Intense animal action must be reviewed in advance, as well as in a safety meeting prior to filming, and must include a safety backup plan. American Humane must be invited to participate in this meeting and shall be notified of the safety plan once it is developed (see Veterinary Guidelines above). American Humane field personnel shall closely monitor all strenuous or potentially risky animal action for any breach of the federal Animal Welfare Act or state and local animal cruelty laws and regulations, which clearly state that no animal shall be overridden, overdriven, overloaded or ill-treated. Any violation will be reported. A veterinarian familiar with the animals being used shall be present for all stunts where strenuous activity may pose risks, and/or if the temperature is above 80 degrees.
- 7-3 .....When stunts seem to pose a danger or involve risk, safety measures must be reviewed with American Humane and the stunt demonstrated at American Humane’s request.
- 7-4 .....Any intense animal action, including (but not limited to) chase or running scenes, must be staged to prevent animals from being overworked. Care must be taken when working in temperatures above 80 degrees, especially where humidity is present. This can be

accomplished in the following ways:

- a. By filming these scenes in early morning or late afternoon when temperatures are lower
- b. By limiting rehearsals
- c. By providing sufficient rest periods between takes
- d. By providing a sufficient supply of backup animals so the animals can be rotated
- e. By maintaining a sufficient supply of ice and water at the filming location to be used to cool horses and livestock. This is specifically required when horses are used.
- f. By having an adequate number of animal handlers on hand to provide cooling to the animals

- 7-5 .....Environmental conditions such as terrain, temperature, and humidity play a role in the safety of an animal; therefore, the animal handler, a licensed veterinarian, and American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives will monitor animals for signs of heat stress and other risks.
- 7-6 .....Animal handlers and/or veterinarians on set shall have a rectal thermometer available should the need arise to monitor an animal's temperature. Should the temperature of an animal rise above normal limits, the animal will be pulled from use and not allowed to return to work for at least 24 hours with veterinarian approval and with documentation provided to American Humane. For example, a horse with a rectal temperature of 104 degrees shall not be used until it has had at least 24 hours rest and then only with veterinarian approval. (The normal temperature range for a dog is 100-103 degrees. Normal for a cat is 100.5-102.5.)
- 7-7 .....No pregnant or lactating horse or livestock, and/or any horse or livestock under the age of two years, shall participate in stunts or strenuous activity such as stampedes, rodeos, and extensive running scenes.
- 7-8 .....**No tripping devices, wires, or pitfalls are permitted for use with any animal.** (Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #6.10 Animal Handling.)
- 7-9 .....When stunts involve animals in water, see Water Safety Guidelines, Chapter 5.
- 7-10 .....Branding of animals must be simulated. **No actual branding is allowed.**
- 7-11 .....American Humane recommends that animals riding in an open vehicle, such as in the back of a pickup truck, be restrained using a safety harness or proper tether. All animals must be conditioned and trained for this action prior to filming. Vehicles with a restrained animal shall not travel faster than 25 mph. Should a production require an animal to ride in an open vehicle without restraints, prior approval from American Humane must be received. Vehicles shall not travel more than 15 mph with an unrestrained animal.
- 7-12 .....All animal fights (such as dog, bull, and cock fights), hunting, fishing, and scenes depicting the death of an animal, shall be simulated. No real animal fight can be disguised as a simulated fight by the use of muzzles. Aggressive animals shall be isolated and/or removed from the filming location.

\* Notes a federal, state, or local animal welfare statute, code, or permit consideration  
October 2005 - Film & Television Unit - Guidelines



## CHAPTER 8 Species-Specific Guidelines

### DOG GUIDELINES

**Upon review of the script, if American Humane believes there to be any intense animal action, we will strongly encourage the use of computer generated imagery (CGI), animatronics or fake animal doubles to minimize the risk of injury to the animal.**

- 8-1\*.....All dogs (pets, dogs brought by extras, and dog actors) on set, except for puppies under the age of four months, must have been vaccinated for rabies, parvo, distemper, bordetella, and the corona virus at least two weeks prior to coming onto set. Proof of vaccination or the name and phone number of the veterinarian who vaccinated the dog must be provided to the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative upon request, or proof of other prescription. American Humane may request proof of vaccination and health certificates where applicable. Animal handlers must bring the necessary documentation to set.
- 8-2\*.....When filming scenes involving either the birth of puppies or the use of puppies under the age of eight weeks, prior approval from the USDA and American Humane is required in writing.
- 8-3\*.....Pursuant to USDA regulations, anyone who sells or acquires a dead dog or cat from a private, unlicensed source is required to obtain a USDA license (see Chapter 1 of these *Guidelines*) and provide that documentation to American Humane.
- 8-4 .....When dogs are working with cats, in addition to assuring the safety of the animals, the dogs must be trained and prepped to work with the cats so that the work is not stressful.
- 8-5 .....Dogs that are underweight, overweight, or otherwise not in appropriate physical condition to perform the required work shall not be used. American Humane has the authority to determine the fitness of an animal.

- 8-6.....American Humane's *Guidelines for the Safe Use of Animals in Filmed Media* apply to anyone bringing an animal to the set, including members of the cast or crew.
- 8-7\* .....Per federal requirements, to exhibit a dog in filmed media, the owner or exhibitor is required to have a USDA Exhibitor's Permit or to obtain an exemption from such permit requirements from the USDA prior to filming.
- 8-8.....For safety and efficiency, American Humane recommends that producers hire animal handlers experienced in motion picture production to supply all dogs for production. However, if production chooses to have private owners – including cast and crew – provide dogs, all guideline requirements must be implemented.
- 8-9.....When applicable, producers shall distribute in advance the instruction sheet for "Special Requirements for Extras/Others Who Supply Dogs". Although the special requirements apply to extras and owners, production is always ultimately responsible for the safety of the animals and humans on the set. The needed precautions to ensure human and animal safety include:
- a. **Water:** Extras/owners shall bring a water bowl that is heavy enough to prevent overturning and large enough to satiate a dog's thirst. Water should be available to the dog between takes.
  - b. **Control:** Dogs must wear collars and be kept on a leash at all times, except when being held in a secure pen, fenced area, or crate. Dogs shall not be left unattended at any time. If a dog charges, threatens, or bites any person or animal, it shall be removed immediately from the set and location.
  - c. **Proof of Vaccination:** All dogs shall be licensed, and the owner must provide proof of licensing. Extras/owners must provide proof of the dog's vaccinations against rabies, parvo, distemper, bordetella, and the corona virus. Dogs must have received vaccinations at least two weeks prior to coming onto set.
  - d. **Dogs in Heat:** Dogs should not be on set if they are in their heat cycle.
  - e. **Housing/Comfort:** Extras/owners shall coordinate with production as to who will provide shade, crates, and/or fencing for the dog. This should happen prior to the dog's arrival on set. Improper chains and tethers are prohibited.
- 8-10\* .....Dog bites and dog attacks are becoming more common and are often severe. If a dog bite incident occurs on your set, production should take the following steps:
- a. A doctor should examine any dog bite to a human.
  - b. A veterinarian should examine any dog bite to another animal.
  - c. \*Any dog bite that requires medical or veterinary attention shall be reported to the local animal control agency or public health agency (as appropriate in the jurisdiction) and to American Humane.
  - d. Production shall provide in writing the biting dog's licensing and vaccination information, and its owner's name and address, to the person bitten, the involved health agency, and to American Humane.



**NO ANIMALS WERE HARMED\***

American Humane Association

## **DISTRIBUTE IN ADVANCE**

### **Special Requirements for Extras/ Others Who Supply Dogs**

Although these special requirements apply to extras or other private owners, production is always ultimately responsible for the well-being of any animal (or human) on a set. Please be aware, for safety reasons, that American Humane discourages the use of an extra's dog in lieu of a professionally trained animal. Dog bites and dog attacks are becoming more common and are often severe. As breed popularity has shifted from the hunting, working, and herding varieties to today's more urban pet/protection dogs – whose genetics tend to be more aggression-prone – dog bites have become a national public health crisis. Please ensure the safety of the humans and dogs on your set.

**Guideline Applicability:** American Humane's *Guidelines for the Safe Use of Animals in Filmed Media* apply to anyone bringing an animal to the set.

**Training and Socialization:** Extras/owners who bring their dogs to a film set should make sure that their dogs are well trained, socialized, and comfortable in groups of dogs and humans.

**Water:** Extras/owners shall bring a water bowl that is heavy enough not to be tipped over and large enough to satiate an overheated dog's thirst. Extras/owners shall make water available to the dog between takes.

**Control:** The dog must wear a collar and be kept on a leash at all times, except when being held in a secure pen, fenced area, or crate. Dogs shall not be left unattended at any time. If a dog charges, threatens, or bites any person or animal, it shall be removed immediately from the set and location.

**Proof of License and Vaccination:** All dogs shall be licensed. Extras/owners must provide proof of the dog's vaccinations against rabies, parvo, distemper, bordetella, and the corona virus. The dog must have received its vaccinations at least two weeks prior to coming onto set.

**Prohibition Against Dogs in Heat:** Dogs may not be on set if they are in their heat cycle.

**Housing/Comfort:** In advance, extras/owners shall coordinate with production as to who will provide shade, crates, and/or fencing for the dog.

**Dog Bite Incidents:**

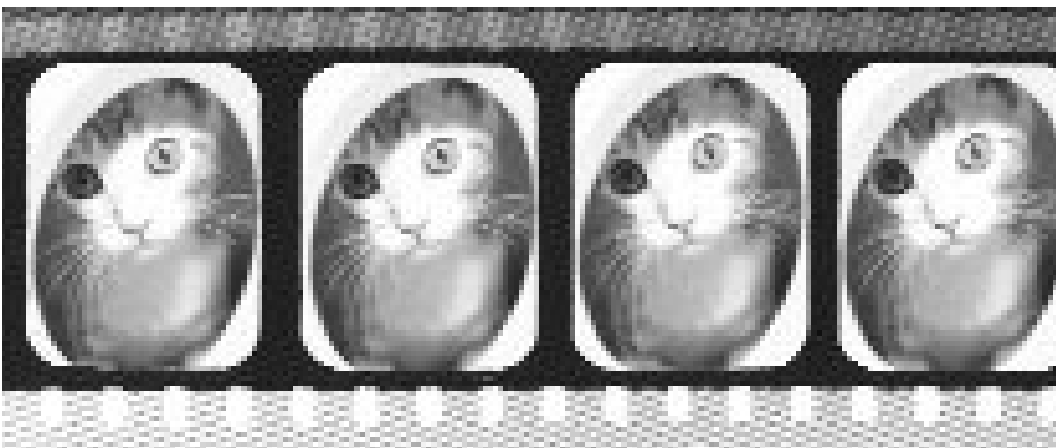
- Dog bites to humans or other animals that break the skin should receive prompt medical/veterinary attention.
- Dog bites that necessitate medical or veterinary care may have to be reported to the local animal control agency or the public health agency (check local regulations). A veterinary examination and/or quarantine of the dog that did the biting may be required.
- Any person bitten (or owner of an animal bitten) by a dog should be provided with the dog owner's name and address and copies of the dog's licensing and vaccination records.

**American Humane Film & Television Unit**

15366 Dickens Street, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403  
888-301-3541 818-501-0123 Fax: 818-501-8725  
filmunit@americanhumane.org  
www.americanhumane.org/film

***“Protecting Animals in Film and Television Since 1940”***



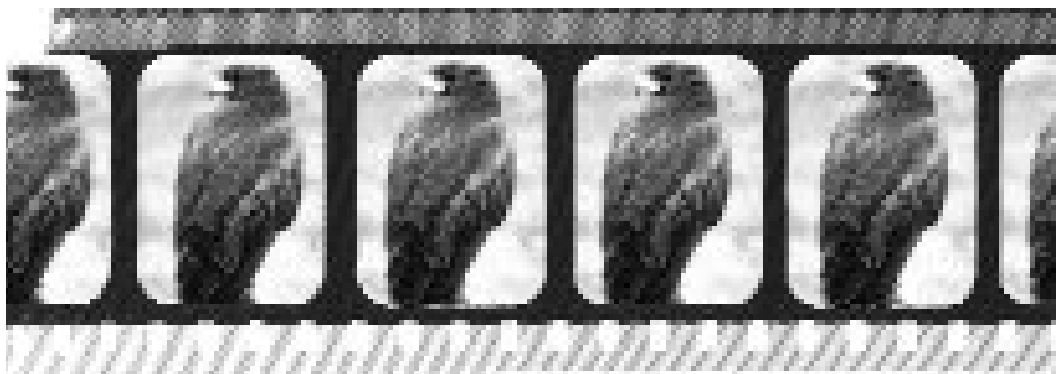


## DOMESTIC CAT GUIDELINES

**Upon review of the script, if American Humane believes there to be any intense animal action, we will strongly encourage the use of computer generated imagery (CGI), animatronics or fake animal doubles to minimize the risk of injury to the animal.**

- 8-11 .....All cats (pets, cats brought by extras, and cat actors) on set, except for kittens under the age of four months, must have been vaccinated for rabies, distemper, and feline leukemia at least two weeks prior to coming on set. Proof of vaccination or the name and phone number of the veterinarian who vaccinated the cat must be provided to the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative upon request. American Humane may request proof of vaccination and health certificates where applicable. Animal handlers must bring the necessary documentation to set.
- 8-12\* .....When filming scenes involving either the birth of kittens or the use of kittens under the age of eight weeks, prior approval from the USDA and American Humane is required in writing.
- 8-13\* .....Pursuant to USDA regulations, anyone who sells or acquires a dead dog or cat from a private, unlicensed source is required to obtain a USDA license (see Chapter 1 of these *Guidelines*) and provide that documentation to American Humane.
- 8-14 .....When cats are working with dogs, in addition to ensuring the safety of the animals, the cats must be trained and prepped to work with the dogs so that the work is not stressful.
- 8-15 .....Domestic cats that are underweight, overweight, or otherwise not in appropriate physical condition to perform the required work shall not be used. American Humane has the authority to determine the fitness of an animal.





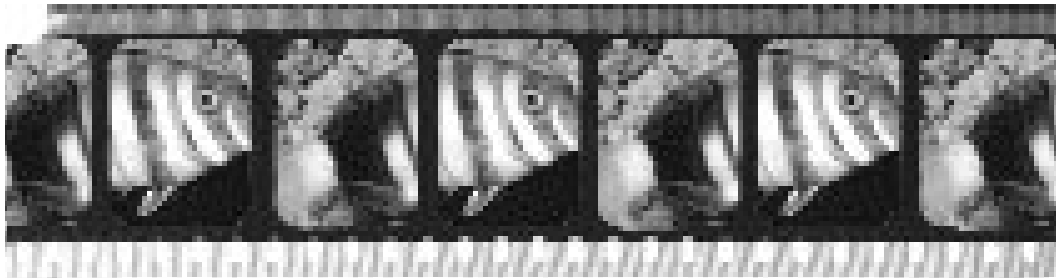
## BIRD GUIDELINES

**Upon review of the script, if American Humane believes there to be any intense animal action, we will strongly encourage the use of computer generated imagery (CGI), animatronics or fake animal doubles to minimize the risk of injury to the animal.**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Birds are tested for avian diseases to prevent the spread of disease to other birds as well as to humans. Insure that flock tests are current.

- 8-16\*.....Pursuant to USDA regulations, birds used in filming should have evidence of a current flock health test. This evidence may include visible banding and/or flock health test certificates, which may be requested by American Humane, especially if birds from different flocks and locations will be used at the same filming location.
- 8-17 .....No bird can be flown after dark unless it is trained to stay in a lighted area or the area is enclosed.
- 8-18 .....When homing pigeons are used, they must be banded, certifying that the birds are actually trained homing pigeons. Pigeons purchased from a pet store are not homing pigeons and will not fly “home.”
- 8-19 .....Consideration must be given to the delicate respiratory systems of birds. Birds must not work in poor air quality conditions such as high humidity or in the presence of any type of aerosol, smoke, and/or chemicals. Those working in close proximity to birds shall not smoke or wear perfume.
- 8-20 .....**The practice of de-beaking is prohibited and must be simulated.**
- 8-21\*.....**Release of Birds:** No birds may be permanently released into the wild. (See Wildlife Guidelines at the end of this chapter). **A hunting permit will not be accepted as a proper form of approval for any type of release.**

- 8-22 .....Birds shall never be flown in inclement weather, including, but not limited to, rain, sleet, and snow.
- 8-23 .....Birds, including chickens, may only be stacked in containers that do not permit them to defecate on one another. Wooden cages or crates must never be used to house birds as they promote disease transmission.
- 8-24 .....American Humane promotes the use of biosecurity measures (disinfecting, hand washing, etc.) to prevent the spread of disease.
- 8-25 .....Birds should be housed in containers that permit each animal to make normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement. The housing shall provide shelter from heat, rain, snow and strong winds.



## FISH GUIDELINES

**Upon review of the script, if American Humane believes there to be any intense animal action, we will strongly encourage the use of computer generated imagery (CGI), animatronics or fake animal doubles to minimize the risk of injury to the animal.**

- 8-26.....Fish or other aquatic animals may not be harmed for filming purposes. Fish become stressed extremely easily, which can result in physical harm.
- 8-27.....The use of live fish and the handling techniques employed must be approved, in advance, by American Humane.
- 8-28.....Production shall utilize an expert knowledgeable in the type of fish being used. In certain situations, American Humane may give prior approval for other professionals, or a crew member knowledgeable in this area, to care for fish such as goldfish or simple aquariums. If prior approval is given, producers shall distribute, in advance, the “Special Requirements for Fish” instruction sheet.
- 8-29.....The water type and quality used in live wells and filming must be appropriate for the species of fish being used (e.g. temperature, clarity, oxygenation, salinity, and pH), and adequate water acclimation time must be provided.
- 8-30.....**The hooking of a fish is NOT condoned for the purposes of filming. Fishing scenes should be simulated. Call American Humane for recommendations and prior approval.**
- 8-31.....At no time shall any stringer, line, or other device be placed through the mouth, gills, or any other body part of a fish.
- 8-32.....Fishing scenes must be simulated with dead fish, animatronics, or methods other than using live fish.
- 8-33.....When using dead fish, please see Chapter 1 of these *Guidelines*.
- 8-34.....Approval must be obtained from American Humane prior to the release of fish. American Humane must receive documentation certifying the source of the fish being released to ensure genetic quality and survivability in the wild. Appropriate habitat and water quality must be clarified and documented to American Humane. When releasing fish, please see Wildlife Guidelines at the end of this chapter.

- 8-35.....Fish and other aquatic animals must be maintained in containers or tanks suitable for their species and must receive adequate and appropriate care, including aeration, temperature regulation, and regular feeding. If the tank was set up by a professional, that company/expert should be on call, and their name should be provided to American Humane. The most popular hardy marine fish are damselfish and clownfish. In freshwater tanks, goldfish, barbs, platys, swordtails, danios, and cichlids are recommended.
- 8-36.....For the handling of saltwater fish or the setting up and maintenance of saltwater aquariums, production shall utilize an expert knowledgeable in the specific type(s) of fish being used.
- 8-37.....To ensure the health and safety of fish in containers such as aquariums, a backup plan, including an auxiliary power source, shall be in place in the event of an electrical failure. Surge protectors shall be utilized at all times. When fish are left alone overnight in aquariums or other containers used as props or set dressing, production must ensure that the water temperature remains within ambient limits for the species of fish being used.
- 8-38.....When fish or other aquatic animals are purchased live for a scene and later returned to the seller, receipts showing both the purchase and the safe return must be provided to American Humane.
- 8-39.....Please see Chapter 1 of these *Guidelines* when live fish or other aquatic animals are purchased for a scene and later returned or adopted.
- 8-40.....**Fish out of water:** Advance approval from American Humane is required should a scene call for a fish to be out of water. An expert knowledgeable in the specific type of fish shall be present to assist in determining how to structure the scene without harm to the fish. Consideration must be given to the species that are most tolerant of this activity (e.g., Catfish, Carp, Perch, Bowfin, Lungfish, Mudskippers, Tarpon). Other types of fish such as trout and salmon are more sensitive and American Humane should be consulted before filming. A fish may not be out of water longer than 30 seconds without prior approval from American Humane. Fish must be rotated so that none are used twice in a row, and no fish can be used more than three times in one day.
- 8-41.....**Handling Fish:** Advance approval from American Humane is required should a scene call for a fish to be handled either by hands or by mechanical means, such as nets. Only fine mesh nets may be utilized to prevent damage to the fish. Possible stress from handling is dependent on numerous environmental factors, as well as the species of fish. Special consideration must be given to the species most tolerant to handling (e.g., Bowfin, Lungfish, Mudskippers, Perch). It is recommended that only fish with cycloid scales be handled. The oils, salts, and heat in human skin can be toxic to fish, therefore hands must be clean and free of contaminants prior to filming and must be wet at all times when handling fish. Any use of fishing line, fishing nets, and Boga Grips™ shall be approved, in advance, by American Humane. An expert knowledgeable in the specific type of fish shall be present to assist in determining how to structure the scene without harm to the fish.

- 8-42.....Fish such as goldfish housed in containers without aeration should not be placed near a heat source or in direct sunlight.
- 8-43.....Artificial lighting near fish should be turned off between takes and when not filming to ensure that the water temperature of fish containers does not overheat, jeopardizing the health and welfare of the fish.
- 



## DISTRIBUTE IN ADVANCE

### Special Requirements for Care of Fish

Although these special requirements apply to anyone designated to care for fish, production is always ultimately responsible for the well-being of any animal (or human) on a set.

**Guideline Applicability:** American Humane's Guidelines for the Safe Use of Animals in Filmed Media apply to anyone responsible for the care of an animal, including fish.

**Fish Bowl Setup:** Unlike an aquarium, a fish bowl generally does not have filtration, aeration, or a heater.

- a. Buy the largest bowl your budget and space can accommodate, and wash the bowl, gravel, rock, and decorations with warm water and non-iodized salt. Don't use soap, bleach, or glass cleaners, which may leave residues.
- b. Add room-temperature water and the proper amount of conditioners, which remove chlorine and other harmful contaminants.
- c. Let the bowl stand for an hour before adding the fish, then float the bag containing your new fish in the bowl for 10-15 minutes. Then, add an equal amount of water from the bowl to the plastic bag and float another 10 minutes. Finally, gently tip the bag and let the fish swim free.
- d. Do not buy too many fish or select fish that are too large for the bowl. Goldfish and Siamese Fighting Fish generally do well in fish bowls; many other species may not.
- e. Water in the bowl should be changed at least once per week and sometimes more often. It should appear crystal clear. Gently net fish and place in a smaller separate container with some water from the bowl. Clean bowl and all objects just as before, then add and condition new room-temperature water. Finally, replace the fish (as you did when you purchased them).

- f. Never cover the entire top of a fish bowl; oxygen must be allowed to mix with the water in the bowl.
- g. Do not keep your fish bowl in direct sunlight, as it can overheat very quickly. Ice cubes in a plastic bag can be used to cool down the water temperature if the bowl must be placed near a heat source or in direct sunlight. Watch that the temperature of the water doesn't drop too low with the addition of ice cubes.

**Freshwater Aquarium Setup:** An aquarium generally has filtration, aeration and a heater.

- a. Wash the tank and all submerged equipment and decorations as described above.
- b. Install filters, heaters, air pump, and decorations. Then add water and condition with appropriate chemicals to remove chlorine and other harmful contaminants.
- c. Establishing the bacterial culture is a crucial process and should not be rushed. This is known as the "conditioning period" and generally requires three to six weeks, depending on the aquarium conditions and temperatures. During this time your tank goes thru several drastic chemical changes in ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, and pH levels.
- d. During this conditioning period, start by adding a few of only the hardiest fish - goldfish, barbs, and platys. Follow the process outlined above. Monitor the fish closely for signs of stress or ammonia or nitrite poisoning (lack of feeding, loss of color, clamped fins and increased respiration).
- e. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO NOT ADD ANY MEDICATIONS OR OTHER CHEMICALS INTO THE WATER DURING THE CONDITIONING PHASE.**
- f. It is best to add only a few fish at a time, about one or two a week, and carefully monitor water quality to make sure you are not overloading your tank. Overcrowding a tank can lead to hypoxia, where fish rise quickly to the water's surface, gasping for air, and can have deadly consequences. Hypoxia can also occur during a filtration/aeration system malfunction or power outage, so a backup plan should be in place. You can monitor oxygen levels by using a water test kit. In the event of hypoxia, sealing your fish in a plastic bag with one-third water and two-thirds oxygen can keep your fish alive for 24 hours or more as an emergency treatment.
- g. If you can't wait, the conditioning process can be hastened by seeding your aquarium with gravel or bioballs from an already established system. You must make sure you are not introducing any parasites or other diseases into your clean tank. This process, although not always safe, can shorten the duration of the conditioning period by 8-10 days.

## **American Humane Film & Television Unit**

15366 Dickens Street, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403  
888-301-3541 818-501-0123 Fax: 818-501-8725  
filmunit@americanhumane.org  
www.americanhumane.org/film

***"Protecting Animals in Film and Television Since 1940"***





## **INSECT AND ARACHNID GUIDELINES (ants, beetles, worms, bees, spiders, scorpions)**

**Upon review of the script, if American Humane believes there to be any intense animal action, we will strongly encourage the use of computer generated imagery (CGI), animatronics or fake animal doubles to minimize the risk of injury to the animal.**

- 8-44 .....Nothing can be done to an insect that will cause permanent harm, or permanently alter its physical characteristics.
- 8-45 .....When using insects and arachnids, the standard of care for the particular species being used must include housing, feeding, and protection against environmental dangers such as heat, humidity, cold, and inclement weather.
- 8-46 .....When using insects, an animal handler knowledgeable with that particular insect(s) should be on set.
- 8-47 .....Care should be taken to collect all insects used in filming. None should be allowed to remain on the set or location. Non-indigenous species shall not be allowed to escape, and proof of a plan to contain non-indigenous species must be reported to American Humane prior to filming.
- 8-48 .....When insects are brought on set for filming, filters, nets, or screens shall be placed over lighting to prevent them from flying into the lights.
- 8-49 .....Bees and other species of insects and arachnids shall not be used in filming when the air temperature is below 55 degrees. The use of bees and other specific species in colder weather is self-limiting, as the bees will not fly or move.
- 8-50\* .....Insects and arachnids that are – by law – deemed “invasive” species shall not be released. Certain species of insects and arachnids are beneficial to the environment. Others, such as locusts, moths, and certain species of beetles, shall not be released. Non-indigenous species shall not be released. Certain species of butterflies shall never be released, as they will not likely survive.
- 8-51\* .....When releasing insects and arachnids, contact American Humane first. (Also see Wildlife Guidelines at the end of this chapter.)





## HORSE AND LIVESTOCK GUIDELINES

**Upon review of the script, if American Humane believes there to be any intense animal action, we will strongly encourage the use of computer generated imagery (CGI), animatronics or fake animal doubles to minimize the risk of injury to the animal.**

In addition to all the guidelines outlined above, these additional guidelines apply to all horses and other livestock without regard to their prominence or insignificance to the production. This section applies to all animals used in motion picture productions, including any privately owned animals furnished to the production by historic re-enactors, other private suppliers, stunt coordinators, directors, or any other members of the cast or crew.

In productions involving large numbers of animals (e.g., historic re-enactments), a responsible “chain of command” shall be established to coordinate the work during production. This will be provided to American Humane. The designated “commander” of each unit will be directly responsible for the conduct of the people and the care of the animals under his/her supervision.

### **HOUSING AND GENERAL CARE**

- 8-52 .....Sufficient barns and/or pens must be made available so that horses or livestock from different herds or flocks and/or geographical regions can be housed separately. The housing must be completed before the animals arrive.
- 8-53 .....When housing or filming horses in panel pens, panels must be “horse friendly” and connected so that no gaps remain between panels that would allow a horse to get his/her leg, head, or neck hung in the gap. There should be no sharp edges or points in the pens, and connecting devices such as bolts or slide bolts shall be positioned away from or on the outside of the pen.
- 8-54 .....The manner in which horses and other livestock are housed will take into account their ages and the climates to which the animals are accustomed.
- 8-55 .....During periods of extreme heat, horses and livestock will be provided adequate shade.

- 8-56 .....Horses and livestock must be provided with sufficient clean water both on and off set.
- 8-57 .....Reasonable and adequate overnight rest and shelter to protect horses from the elements will be provided.
- 8-58 .....Horse and livestock feed decisions shall take into consideration such factors as the animal's customary diet, changing climates, and working conditions.
- 8-59 .....Other than designated cast members, only experienced animal handlers may work with livestock or ride horses on a production.
- 8-60 .....No cast member, extra, or animal handler shall be allowed to ride or work with a horse unless they have adequate riding skills and horse knowledge. At a minimum, all riders must be skilled enough not to jerk or twist the horse's mouth. **It is the producer's responsibility to ensure that cast members obtain adequate training to prevent such accidental cruelty.**
- 8-61 .....All background extras required to ride on a production must first be auditioned by the wrangler boss to determine their riding ability. Only riders from the approved wrangler boss list may be hired. Production must provide adequate lead time for such demonstration and determination prior to filming. American Humane will have final approval of the skill and knowledge of any rider.
- 8-62 .....Spectators and crew should be discouraged from petting the horses. Never, under any circumstances, should anyone other than the owner or person responsible for the animal be allowed to mount/ride or feed them.
- 8-63 .....**Whenever possible, spur use should be simulated by a combination of establishing shots and the substitution of flexible rubber spurs. At no time shall spurs with locked rowels be utilized. At no time shall spurs with a diameter of more than one inch be utilized (rubber props exempt). Sharp spurs are not allowed. It shall be at the sole discretion of American Humane to make decisions regarding the use of spurs.**
- 8-64 .....Equines should be trimmed/shod appropriately for the action required. The factors to be considered include the breed and size of horse, the action to be performed, and the terrain on which they will be working. Horses working on cement or asphalt should wear borium, borium-tipped, rubber, or other appropriate shoes.
- 8-65 .....Skid and hock boots should be used in downhill slides or rodeo-slide stops.
- 8-66 .....Whenever a large group of horses and/or livestock is used for a particular scene, especially when they are brought together from different areas, American Humane may inspect the animals and check appropriate documentation – including health certificates and Coggins tests. A veterinarian shall be present to give each horse a basic health examination before they come in contact with the other horses. Animals must be adequately trained, conditioned, and prepped for use on a film set. American Humane has the jurisdiction to pull any animals deemed unfit for use.
- 8-67 .....Horses and livestock used on sets will be calm, well behaved, and controllable in all situations at all times. Horses and/or livestock must

- be properly trained to function around large crowds, in tight formations, and under gunfire, as well as tolerate being kept on a picket line in close proximity to other horses. Horses and/or livestock should not be head shy and shall function well with other horses and/or livestock. Geldings are preferable. For practical purposes, the use of mares is acceptable but discouraged. No stallions should be used without American Humane approval.
- 8-68 .....Horses shall be, at a minimum, trained to halter and lead calmly and accept human handling without fear or stress. Horses must be accustomed to handling in order to prevent stress and accidents with other horses and livestock.
- 8-69 .....When a scene calls for the filming of a “herd,” untrained animals can be used – provided the herd is pre-existing, located on familiar terrain, and controlled/ moved by persons familiar with that particular herd.
- 8-70 .....Horses and/or livestock should not be left unattended.
- 8-71 .....Hitching 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 stage, hitching rails shall be bolted or fastened in a rigid manner. (Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #6.11 Animal Handling. **NOTE:** when filming stampedes, please see Guideline #97.)
- 8-72 .....In scenes where horses or livestock will be required to run extensively, no pregnant or lactating horses or livestock, or horses or livestock under the age of two years, shall be utilized. (Please see Stunt Guidelines for strenuous or risky action.)
- 8-73 .....All equipment and tack shall be safe and serviceable. Before and after every use, all tack and harnesses must be thoroughly inspected for any damage or wear that could potentially cause injury to either the horse or rider.
- 8-74 .....At no time shall bits with severe mouthpieces and/or excessively long shanks be used on any film set. If these types of bits must be used on an animal, the animal is not suitable for work on a film set.
- 8-75 .....American Humane supports humane training methods. An American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative must observe any pre-production training or rehearsals prior to approving any methods used to cause a horse to limp. A licensed equine veterinarian must be on set before and during any type of filming which could be construed as a violation of the federal “soring” laws.
- 8-76\* .....**Causing a horse to limp:** Pursuant to the Federal Horse Protection Act, an animal handler shall not use any device, equipment, or practice on any horse that affects their gait. The use of the following is NOT permitted: An irritating agent or blistering agent applied internally or externally, by a person to any limb of a horse; any burn, cut, or laceration inflicted by a person on any limb of a horse; any nail, tack, screw, or chemical agent injected or used by a person on any limb of a horse; or any other substance or device used by a person on any limb of a horse or any practice, causing horse to suffer, or can reasonably be expected to suffer, physical pain, or distress, inflammation, or lameness when walking, trotting, or otherwise

moving. Any practice that alters or “sets” the tails of horses from their natural carriage is not permitted.

- 8-77 .....Prior to and after each day’s use, all horses are to be thoroughly groomed, especially in the head, neck, and saddle area, and have their hooves picked.
- 8-78 .....Each horse will be thoroughly inspected for saddle and girth sores and other injuries after each use and at the end of the day. It is the responsibility of the rider, wrangler, and/or owner, and of the coordinator to ensure that this is done. Horses with saddle and girth sores shall not be used until healed.
- 8-79 .....Lead ropes may not be allowed to drag. Should a scene require a “loose” horse with a dragging rope or reins, a breakaway mechanism must be utilized and demonstrated prior to filming.

### **STRENUOUS EQUINE ACTION**

When filming intense action or when filming in temperatures above 80 degrees – especially if humidity is present – production and animal handlers must recognize that horses are susceptible to three serious conditions: dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Environmental temperature alone is a poor indicator of comfort or stress. Humidity, airflow, length of exposure, terrain, breed, hair coat, age, weight, health status, and acclimation of the animal all figure in the assessment of the conditions.

The following guidelines will be enforced:

- 8-80 .....Any strenuous animal action, including (but not limited to) chase or running scenes, must be staged to prevent overworking of the animals. Special care must be taken when working in temperatures above 80 degrees, especially if humidity is present. This can be accomplished in the following ways:
- a. By filming these scenes in early morning or late afternoon, when temperatures are lower
  - b. By limiting rehearsals
  - c. By providing sufficient rest periods between takes
  - d. By providing a sufficient supply of backup animals so the animals can be rotated
  - e. By providing an abundant supply of ice and water directly at the filming location to cool horses and livestock. This is specifically required when horses are used.
  - f. By having an adequate number of animal handlers on hand to provide cooling to animals

**American Humane field personnel shall closely monitor all intense animal action for any breach of the federal Animal Welfare Act, as well as state and local animal cruelty laws and regulations, which clearly state that no animal shall be overridden, overdriven, overloaded or ill-treated. Any violation will be reported.**

- 8-81 .....Animal handlers and/or veterinarians on set must have a rectal thermometer available should the need arise to monitor an equine's temperature. Should the temperature of an equine rise above normal limits, the equine will be pulled from use and not allowed to return to work for at least 24 hours with veterinarian approval. For example, a horse with a rectal temperature of 104 degrees shall not be used until it has had at least 24 hours rest and only with veterinarian approval.
- 8-82 .....Horses and livestock should receive ample water at the location and adequate rest periods equal to or greater than their working time. If the location is different from the staging area, the assistant director must be sensitive to the necessity of water breaks. Also, fresh (treated) water must be supplied when the animals come from different regions.
- 8-83 .....To ensure horses receive adequate rest time, horsemen shall stand down (dismount) between setups, saving the horses' backs. Sitting on the horses for long periods between filming will not be allowed.
- 8-84 .....Teams will be unhitched between long takes or a tongue prop will be used.
- 8-85 .....There will be no unnecessary riding or running horses while off camera.
- 8-86 .....The return to base camp after filming must be orderly - racing back to camp is not allowed.

**HORSE/LIVESTOCK STUNTS** (also see Chapter 7 of these *Guidelines*):

- 8-87 .....Only trained falling horses shall be used to perform horse falls; only trained jumping horses shall be used in jumping scenes; and only trained rearing horses shall be used in rearing scenes. Rearing horses must not be pulled over backwards.
- 8-88 .....For running horse/livestock falls, the ground shall be prepared to cushion the animal's fall. In determining the number of falls allowed, consideration will be given to how the ground is prepared, length of approach, condition and skill of the animal, method of fall and other adjacent action.
- a. The ground should be softened either by spreading four or five yards of sand, peat, or other soft substance, or by digging up the earth, making sure that all rocks and rough clods are removed.
  - b. For running horse/livestock falls, the area should not be less than 20 feet square, 12 to 18 inches deep and filled with sand or other similar materials. It must be checked for rocks, glass, and other potentially harmful materials.
  - c. The softened earth should not be covered by materials that may lessen the effectiveness of the prepared ground. For example, grass clippings rather than sod should be used. The entrance and exit routes to the prepared horse fall areas must be checked for hazards as well.
- 8-89 .....When filming horses or livestock lying down, production must prepare the ground by making sure all rocks and other debris are removed. The ground should be softened by the use of peat, sand, or other soft substance, and/or by digging up the ground.

- 8-90 .....Horse jumps or falls into water should not be more than six feet. Horses must be properly trained to perform these stunts. The water depth must be adequate to cushion the fall. Appropriate underwater footing must be provided, and the exit pathway must also provide secure and stable footing.
- 8-91 .....In horse jumping scenes, the top rails of the jumps should be “breakaway,” “fall-away,” or made of scored balsa wood.
- 8-92 .....For jumping, lie down, and rearing scenes, the number of jumps/rears allowed and the duration of a lie down will be dependent upon the action, the animal’s skill and condition, and other environmental factors.
- 8-93 .....Sliding or riding down sand banks or earth slides should be done only by experienced riders on experienced horses.
- 8-94 .....Saddle drags will only be accomplished on horses trained to do so. Untrained horses can be easily spooked and injured and can cause a runaway.
- 8-95 .....Breakaway materials must be used in scenes where horses paw, strike, or kick stationary scenery or props. Otherwise, the horse action must be simulated using an artificial horse leg or other such device.
- 8-96 .....An adequate number of pick-up riders will be utilized during stampedes, charges, runaways, wagon crashes, riding, liberty work, herd, and running scenes to maintain control of the situation at all times and to aid in the event of an emergency. The riders and their horses should be experienced, and the horses should be in excellent condition.
- 8-97 .....Runaway wagons must be inspected to ensure the horses will break free before the wagon crashes.
- 8-98 .....When moving large groups of horses or livestock, care should be taken to prevent stampedes. An adequate number of pick-up riders must be provided to control the set. This is especially important for cattle scenes.
- 8-99 .....In stampede scenes, when a large number of animals is restricted to a certain path or enclosed area (such as a Western town), the following applies:
- a. The streets must be watered down to prevent dust from restricting the vision of trailing animals.
  - b. The hitching rails must be designed in a manner that the vertical post is flush with the horizontal post. The posts must be designed or attached without the use of nails, spikes, or any material that can impale or lacerate should the rail become dislodged through contact.
  - c. Prior to a stampede scene, American Humane shall inspect the area with the stunt coordinator and/or the wrangler to determine if the hitching rails are constructed properly. Should the hitching rail be positioned in an area that is potentially dangerous to any animal, then that hitching rail shall be removed. If the rail(s) presents a continuity problem, the same rail(s) must be removed or replaced by a balsa wood hitching rail with the same building restrictions applied. Should American Humane, the stunt coordinator, or the wrangler

\* Notes a federal, state, or local animal welfare statute, code, or permit consideration  
October 2005 - Film & Television Unit - Guidelines



determine that the hitching rail is in any way unsafe, appropriate steps must be taken to correct the problem.

- 8-100 ...When any animal is used for a stampede scene occurring near any cliff, hill, knoll, or other steep face of earth, the following applies:
- a. Fencing or other devices and/or an adequate number of pick-up riders must be positioned to easily retrieve any animal(s) that might stray from the herd being filmed.
  - b. Neither the animal(s) nor pick-up riders shall be allowed any closer than 75 feet from the edge of any cliff, hill, knoll, or other steep face of earth.
  - c. The same rule also applies when placing or holding the herd in an area waiting to be filmed.
  - d. At no time may any animal be left unattended.
  - e. In the event that a helicopter or other aircraft is used to film the stampede, see Aircraft Safety in Chapter 5 of these Guidelines.

### **HARNESSES/ARTILLERY SCENES AND STUNTS**

*The following guidelines are broken down into two categories: general use and artillery scenes. Please read all guidelines fully to ensure compliance.*

**NOTE:** Though the following sections generally refer to horses, these guidelines for harness and artillery scenes apply to all hitched livestock, including horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, steer and oxen.

#### **General:**

- 8-101 ...Only animals trained to the harness and hitch may be used.
- 8-102 ...All animals must be controllable at all times.
- 8-103 ...A driver or experienced animal handler must maintain direct, hands-on control of hitched teams at all times.
- 8-104 ...All animals in a hitched team must be of similar size and stature, and in good health and condition.
- 8-105 ...All harnesses must be in good condition, well-fitted to the animal(s) used and appropriate for the work being performed. Adequate adjustment and fitting of the harness to the animals is necessary to reduce sores on necks from collars or of flanks from britching.
- 8-106 ...All apparatuses to be pulled (e.g. wagons, carriages, artillery pieces) must be in good working order: no rotten, cracked, worn, or missing parts, or ungreased fitting. (Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #4.7 Stunts.)
- 8-107 ...A harnessed animal must never be left unattended. Animals shall never be unbridled while still hitched. A driver or experienced animal handler must maintain direct, hands-on control of hitched teams at all times.
- 8-108 ...It is important to establish a safe working distance around a hitched team. This includes the sides and rear of the apparatus the animals are hitched to. American Humane suggests that camera/insert cars maintain a safe distance of 25 feet around the entire hitch. Cameras/booms should keep a safe distance of 15 feet and should only be utilized with animals that have been trained to accept a crane/boom camera that moves into different positions during

filming. Dry runs with camera/insert cars and cranes should be done to ensure animals are comfortable with the setup.

- 8-109 ...When a hitched animal is being reset, or waiting for a take, it is important that all cast and crew stay back 25 feet from the team. No film crew personnel should approach a hitch without permission from the driver.
- 8-110 ...A tongue prop should be used whenever horses are harnessed and at rest – especially when any additional weight is added to the tongue, such as ironing boards or other stunt equipment.
- 8-111 ...When shooting intense action in harness (e.g. stunts or water crossings), horses/livestock should be hitched with quick release snaps or clevises to ensure the quick removal of a horse when necessary.
- 8-112 ...**Breakaway Scenes**
- a. In scenes with breakaway wagons, the number of horses in the hitch shall be limited to four; using more horses makes the stunt more dangerous.
  - b. The distance the “broken away” team has to run must be taken into consideration. The longer the distance, the more dangerous the action becomes. Prior approval of the stunt must be obtained from American Humane.
  - c. Slides or drags are suggested for use on breakaway teams. When the hitch is broken away, the slide or drag keeps the trees and traces in proper position behind the horse, preventing the team from becoming entangled in the traces or getting hit by the dangling trees/eveners.
- 8-113 ...Under no circumstances should a hitched horse be allowed to traverse water higher than its bottom line (stomach). A harness limits a horse's head movement, preventing them from keeping their heads out of higher water. (Please see the Water Safety section of Chapter 6 of these *Guidelines*.)
- 8-114 ...When driving more than six horses, it is suggested that two drivers or a brakeman be utilized. A brakeman should be a qualified driver.
- 8-115 ...Quarter straps should be utilized on all harnesses with britching and any time harnessed horses will be cantering or performing stunts.
- 8-116 ...An adequate number of outriders should be utilized at all times with harnessed animals. The horse ridden by an outrider should always be faster than the animals used in harness. As a general rule, there should be one outrider for each team in harness (i.e., for a 6-up, three outriders should be utilized) and a minimum of two outriders at all times.
- 8-117 ...Grooms/wranglers should be numerous enough to assist the driver during turns for resets and while waiting for action to begin. When needed, one groom/wrangler should hold each team by means of a lead rope or by the harness bridle until action is ready to begin.

### **Artillery Scenes:**

- 8-118 ....Only an artillery harness designed for use in conjunction with the operations of pulling or towing artillery pieces may be used.
- 8-119 ....Horse gun sections should always have an outrider, either in uniform on camera or a wrangler off camera, to help adjust harnesses or make repairs while the drivers stay mounted or hold their teams.
- 8-120 ....All activity during the movement of guns should be done in a walk or trot. Gunners may ride the limber box at these gates. No artillerymen should be on the limber box when the team is at a canter or gallop.
- 8-121 ....If using heavy guns (3-inch ordinance guns or 12-pounders), a tractor or 4X4 should be available to haul the cannon back to the starting position to save the artillery horses for additional takes.
- 8-122 ....If the distance on each take is short, have the gun, limber, and team physically rolled backwards rather than make the team do large, repeated circles back to original position.

### **Explosives/Gunfire**

**NOTE:** Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #1 Safety with Firearms and Use of "Blank Ammunition."

- 8-123 ....Only qualified, experienced cannoneers approved by the re-enactor coordinator shall be used in battle scenes with cannon fire.
- 8-124 ....For battle scenes with cannon fire, a minimum of four experienced and qualified artillery personnel must be used. These personnel must be checked out and approved by the re-enactor coordinator.
- 8-125 ....After unlimbering the gun, all hitches must be behind their individual guns before any of the cannons are fired.
- 8-126 ....When firing pistols from horseback, the weapon shall be held at no less than a 45-degree angle to the horse's head. This will decrease the chances of powder flashes causing burns to the horse's corneas.
- 8-127 ....When firing pistols or carbines from the ground, the weapon shall not be pointed at a horse.
- 8-128 ....When firing any type of artillery piece around horses, quarter loads must be used. Though an animal may be accustomed to loud noises, there is still a danger of damage to an animal's ears from the percussive force of the ammunition.
- 8-129 ....Artillery pieces being fired must be a minimum of 25 feet from the nearest horse.
- 8-130 ....All mortar potholes must be filled after battle scenes if the hole is no longer necessary. This is to prevent any injury to horses that may be used in that same area for different scenes.

### **Saber/Sword/Lance Fights**

**NOTE:** Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #30 Sharp Objects.

- 8-131 ....The use of sabers or lances while on horseback must be done with the utmost safety. American Humane encourages the use of rubber, plastic, or other "prop" sabers and swords, and balsa wood lances scored to break away. In the event real sabers must be used, all sabers

should be dull. However, it should be kept in mind that they are still pointed on the tips. Therefore, all activity with the saber should be done with the blade in a vertical position.

- 8-132 ....All saber fighting should be done with an experienced horse accustomed to close body contact.
- 8-133 ....When engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with sabers, riders should at all times keep their sabers above the heads of both riders and horses.
- 8-134 ....No activity should occur with the saber blade below the head level of the horse, which could strike the horse in the head or ear area.
- 8-135 ....When sabers are in the carry position, the blade should be in a neutral position at all times. This means either straight up or resting in the hilt (handle), and they should rest on the right thigh of the cavalryman. This will stabilize the blade and minimize any lateral or horizontal positioning of the blade during a march or charge.

**HORSE RACING SCENES** (*thoroughbred, quarter horse, mule, arabian, steeplechasing, harness, hurdling*)

- 8-136 ....When staging racing scenes or collaborating with existing race tracks to procure racing scenes for a film, production must, at a minimum, comply with the *Welfare Guidelines for Horseracing* from the International Group of Specialists Racing Veterinarians (IGSRV), as outlined below. When filming pre-existing, regularly scheduled racing events in order to include such footage in a film production, filmmakers must select racetracks that, at a minimum, comply with these guidelines. The following guidelines have been modified to include references to filming and to create consistency with American Humane's *Guidelines*.
- 8-137 ....For scenes depicting horse racing, only experienced and trained equines shall be used.
- 8-138 ....For scenes depicting horse racing, an experienced animal handler and/or licensed racehorse trainer will be utilized.
- 8-139 ....A veterinarian specialized in treating racehorses will be on set at all times when filming racing scenes. An animal ambulance shall also be on standby for use if necessary.
- 8-140 ....In the event of an accident or injury, jockeys will dismount, and the equine will be collected by ambulance whenever necessary.
- 8-141 ....Prior to use, a veterinarian shall examine the animals and review the prior racing and medical history of each equine (if available) and provide documentation to American Humane.
- 8-142 ....No horse requiring the drug Lasix or any similar drug shall be used. The main purpose of controlling medication is to protect the welfare of the horse and the safety of the rider or driver. No drug shall be allowed that affects the racing performance of the horse or conceals any defects that may be hereditary. Also see Chapter 2, #6 of these *Guidelines*.
- 8-143 ....When filming racing scenes, an adequate number of equines shall be on hand for use as backup animals, as racing puts great stress on their musculoskeletal system. The animal handler must have in place a racing schedule for each animal that takes into consideration the distance to be run.

- 8-144 ....American Humane shall be notified prior to filming and must approve of the racing schedule. Approval will depend on the distance to be run in each take, the frequency of runs, the track surface, the individual horse (age, health history), weights to be carried, and environmental conditions such as heat, cold, and rain. In the case of steeplechase or hurdling racing, the number, size, and design of fences should be carefully assessed.
- 8-145 ....The housing, feeding, training, and racing of equines should be compatible with good horsemanship and should not compromise their welfare. Any practices that cause physical or mental suffering, whether in the stables, training, or racing, will not be tolerated.
- 8-146 ....No horse showing signs of disease, lameness, or other ailment shall be used in racing scenes. Whenever there is any doubt, a veterinary inspection will take place before any horse is allowed to race.
- 8-147 ....Mares that are known to be pregnant shall not be raced at any time.
- 8-148 ....Track Bandages – There is an art to wrapping a horse's leg for a race, and anyone wrapping on a film set should be experienced and qualified to do so.
- 8-149 ....Racetracks and racing surfaces should be designed and maintained to reduce risk of injury. Particular attention shall be paid to crossings, uneven racing surfaces, and extremes in surface quality.
- 8-150 ....Participation in steeplechasing and hurdling shall be restricted to horses with demonstrated jumping ability.
- 8-151 ....American Humane's *Guidelines* with regard to strenuous activity (Chapter 7, #79-85) shall apply. Common sense should be used when racing in extreme weather. Provisions shall be made to cool horses quickly after racing in hot/humid conditions. Horses racing in cold weather should be moved indoors as soon as possible. American Humane considers any temperature above 85 degrees with humidity as dangerous to an animal participating in strenuous activity.
- 8-152 ....American Humane does not condone the use of whips on animals. Whips may be used as props and the desired visual effect may be accomplished by simulating the action. At no time will an equine be whipped to run faster. American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives shall check each horse after each take for post-racing whip welts.
- 8-153 ....American Humane encourages the use of horses that have been trained to load easily into starting gates. Horses shall be prepared adequately so as to be familiar with loading procedures. Barriers should be properly designed and safe. Methods used to load horses into starting gates should be limited to encouraging the animal without causing harm or fear.

## **RODEO SCENES**

When staging rodeo scenes for filming, or collaborating with existing rodeos to procure rodeo scenes for a film, production must, at a minimum, comply with the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Rules for the Humane Treatment of Rodeo Livestock, as outlined below.

When filming pre-existing, regularly scheduled rodeo events in order to include such footage in a film production, filmmakers must select rodeos that, at a minimum, comply with the PRCA Rules.

The following rules have been modified to include references to filming and to create consistency with American Humane's *Guidelines*. The PRCA has approved such modifications, which are intended to ensure the humane treatment of rodeo animals used in staged or documentary footage for filmed media.

- 8-154 ....Productions and/or animal handlers must use livestock from PRCA rodeo stock contractors that are bred, familiar with, and trained for rodeos.
- 8-155 ....All animals used for rodeo scenes must be controllable and conditioned to the work they will be doing, as well as to the environment in which they will be performing (e.g., crowds, arenas, chutes, cameras and other film equipment).
- 8-156 ....All animals in riding events must have performed in at least one prior rodeo as a bucking animal before being filmed. No completely wild animal shall be used in rodeo scenes (please see #8-68 and #8-202 of these *Guidelines*).
- 8-157 ....Rodeo events must be filmed in a manner consistent with normal rodeo practices. No additional animals shall be in the area during filming.
- 8-158 ....Productions must use animal handlers who are current or former members in good standing with the PRCA, and they must be knowledgeable and experienced with the rodeo events being filmed.
- 8-159 ....All animals used in filming rodeo scenes shall be easily identified at all times with a numbering or other type of identification system, such as halters, bands, or tags with names or identification numbers.
- 8-160 ....PRCA R9.1.1 Veterinarian: A veterinarian shall be present for every performance and for the selection of stock.
- 8-161\* ....PRCA R9.10/ R9.11 Abuse /Mistreatment: If a person abuses or mistreats an animal by any unnecessary non-competitive or competitive action, he/she may be dismissed for the remainder of the film. A person or persons involved in any act of animal abuse, mistreatment, or intentional cruelty shall be in violation of American Humane's *Guidelines* and/or federal, state or local statutes pertaining to animal welfare, resulting in possible prosecution. Production and American Humane will report allegations of abuse to local law enforcement.
- 8-162 ....PRCA R9.1/ R8.8.1 Sore, Lame, Sick, or Injured Animals: Animals for all events will be inspected prior to filming, and no sore, lame, sick, or injured animals with defective eyesight shall be filmed at any time.

\* Notes a federal, state, or local animal welfare statute, code, or permit consideration  
October 2005 - Film & Television Unit - Guidelines

Should an animal become sick or injured between the time it is scheduled to be used and the filming, that animal shall not be used. If an animal has been declared unsatisfactory for an event, that animal may not be used for another event without the approval of a veterinarian. American Humane field personnel shall be included in the inspection process and shall make the final decision as to whether an animal is fit to perform.

- 8-163 ...PRCA R8.8 Unsatisfactory Animals: American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives may declare any particular animal unsatisfactory. Production and/or the animal handlers shall eliminate such animal(s) from filming.
- 8-164 ...PRCA R8.11.2/R9.13 Injury During Rodeo Filming: The animal handler shall be responsible for notifying American Humane of any animal that becomes injured. The injured animal cannot be used until such time as the injury is completely healed and upon approval of a veterinarian and American Humane.
- 8-165 ...PRCA R9.1.2/ R9.1.2.1 Removal of Injured Animal: A conveyance must be available, supplied by the stock contractor or production, and shall be used, where practicable, to remove animals from the arena in case of injury. The conveyance must be large enough to remove a horse or a bull. Injured calves shall be removed from the arena in a pickup truck, calf stretcher, or by conveyance. Animals removed from the arena, pursuant to this section, shall be placed in a situation as isolated and comfortable as possible to reduce stress. Any injured livestock shall be humanely removed from the arena before continuing the rodeo or scene.
- 8-166 ...PRCA R9.7 No Stimulants or Hypnotics: No stimulants or hypnotics may be given to any animal used for contest purposes or scenes.
- 8-167 ...PRCA R8.5 Acclimating Animals: All timed-event stock shall be run through event chutes and through the arena prior to the start of filming.
- 8-168 ...PRCA R9.5.4 Removal of Livestock After Competition: Livestock must be removed from the arena after each filmed competition is completed, unless the animal is necessary for use in the background to complete the scene.
- 8-169 ...PRCA R9.5.1 Construction of Chutes: Chutes must be constructed to prevent injury to an animal. Maintenance personnel and equipment shall be available at chutes to assist in removal of any animal should it become necessary.
- 8-170 ...PRCA R9.8 Animals Excessively Excited in Chute: Any animal that becomes excessively excited and repeatedly lies down or tries to jump out of the chute, or in any way appears to be in danger of injuring itself, must be immediately released from the chute.
- 8-171 ...PRCA R9.2 Rowels: It is preferred that spurs be made of rubber. In the event real spurs are used, no locked rowels, or rowels that will lock, may be used on animals. Spurs must be dulled and not more than one inch in diameter (rubber props exempt). Any person using sharp spurs or locked rowels will be removed from the location for the remainder of filming.
- 8-172 ...PRCA R9.3 No Sharp Objects in Cinch, Saddle, Girth or Flank Straps:

No sharp or cutting objects in cinch, saddle girth, or flank straps shall be permitted. Flank straps used for horses must be either sheepskin or neoprene-lined, and shall be of the quick-release type. Sheepskin or neoprene-lined flank straps shall be placed on the animal so the lined portion is over both flanks of the animal. In bull riding, a soft cotton rope at least 5/8-inch in diameter is acceptable as a flank strap and does not require the sheepskin or neoprene lining.

- 8-173 ...PRCA R9.4 Prods and Other Artificial Stimuli: Electric prods may NOT be used for the purpose of making an animal perform. No other artificial stimuli may be used without the express permission of an American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative. (Also see Chapter 1, #39 of these *Guidelines*)
- 8-174 ...PRCA R4.8.3 Unsafe Arena Conditions: If the arena conditions, or other area where the rodeo action will take place, are deemed at any time to be unsafe by American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives, competition may be stopped until which time the conditions are deemed satisfactory by American Humane.
- 8-175 ...PRCA R9.5.2 Conditions of Arena: The arena must be free of rocks, holes, and unnecessary obstacles.
- 8-176 ...PRCA R9.5.3 No Small Animals: No animals or pets shall be allowed in the arena or area of filming unless part of an act approved by American Humane.
- 8-177 ...PRCA R 3.2.2 No Animal May be Used Twice on the Same Day: In all riding events, bucking stock cannot be used twice in the same day unless approved by the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative.
- 8-178 ...PRCA R8.4.1. No Switching of Events: No animals may be switched in events unless approved by the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative.
- 8-179 ...PRCA R11.3.13.2 No Consecutive Runs on Same animal: No consecutive runs shall be allowed on the same animal unless approved by the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative.
- 8-180 ...PRCA R8.10.1 No Use Other Than Contest Events: An animal used in filming may not be used in any way other than the contest events of that filming, unless approved by the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative.
- 8-181 ...PRCA R8.9.1 Trimming of Horns: Animal handlers will be expected to cooperate in trimming the horns of steer that are not able to pass through the timed-event chute.
- 8-182 ...PRCA R 8.9.5.1 Blunting of Bull Horns: All animals used in filming for the purpose of bull riding shall have their horns blunted to at least the diameter of a half-dollar.
- 8-183 ...PRCA R8.9.2 Steer-Wrestling Cattle: The horns on steer-wrestling cattle must be blunted to the diameter of a dime. A legal takedown is with the steer being rolled towards the knee and laid down; the steer's legs shall follow the same clockwise or counter-clockwise turn of the steer's head.
- 8-184 ...PRCA R8.9.3 Steer-Roping Cattle: Plaster and rebar must be placed around the horns of steer-roping cattle prior to use, and all such steers should have horn wraps that extend four inches down the jaw from

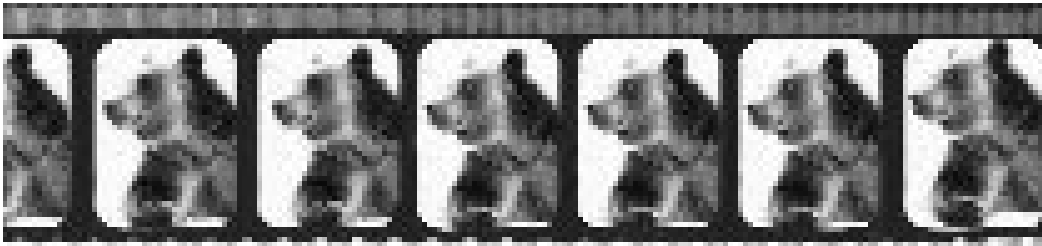
\* Notes a federal, state, or local animal welfare statute, code, or permit consideration  
October 2005 - Film & Television Unit - Guidelines



the base of the horns. The horns must be blunted to the diameter of a quarter. There will be no tripping of the steer or driving of the steer's horns into the dirt, causing it to flip. A legal catch is when the rope goes around both horns, half a head, or around the neck. A legal takedown consists of the steer being rolled towards the knee and laid down; the steer's legs shall follow the same clockwise or counter-clockwise turn of the animal's head. **Any person violating the legal takedown parameters will be removed from location for the remainder of filming.**

- 8-185 ...PRCA R8.8.4 Team-Roping Cattle: All team-roping cattle shall be protected by horn wraps. The horns on all roping cattle must be blunted to the diameter of a dime.
- 8-186 ...PRCA R11.6.3 Tie-Down Roping Time Limit: \* There will be a 25-second elapsed time limit in the tie-down roping event. The timekeeper shall blow a whistle at the end of a 25-second span. Roping a calf after the 25-second whistle has sounded shall be a Class III Offense for mistreatment of animals.
- 8-187 ...PRCA R11.6.4 No Dragging of Calf: A neck rope must be used on the horse, and the animal handler must prevent the horse from dragging the calf.
- 8-188 ...PRCA R11.6.5 No Jerk Down: On filming locations, there will be no "jerk down" and no "throw down" in roping events. Any person violating the legal takedown parameters will be removed from location for the remainder of filming.
- 8-189 ...PRCA R11.7.8 Steer Wrestling Time Limit: There will be a 60-second elapsed time limit in steer wrestling. The timer at the end of the 60-second span shall blow a whistle indicating "no time." The animal handler must then stop his attempt when the whistle is blown.
- 8-190 ...PRCA R11.8.10 Team-Roping Time Limit: There will be a 30-second elapsed time limit in the team-roping event. The timer at the end of the 30-second span shall blow a whistle indicating "no time." The animal handler must then stop his attempt when the whistle is blown.
- 8-191 ...PRCA R11.2.1 Ineligibility Time: Any animal that has been used for filming cannot be used again for 48 hours following the first performance without prior approval from the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative.
- 8-192 ...PRCA R8.12.1 Roping Calves: All roping calves must be either native, Brahma, or of a similar cross. Weight for the calves shall be a minimum of 220 pounds and a maximum of 280 pounds, with fresh calves not to exceed a maximum of 260 pounds.
- 8-193 ...PRCA R 8.12.2 / R8.12.3 / R8.12.4 Breed & Weight of Cattle: All steer-wrestling, team-roping, and steer-roping cattle must be Mexican Corriente steers and must weigh a minimum of 450 pounds and a maximum of 600 pounds.
- 8-194 ...PRCA R9.6 Neck Rope Must Be Used in Calf- or Tie-Down Roping: In calf- and tie-down roping, a neck rope must be used. Calves may not be intentionally flipped backward. Contestants must adjust rope and reins in such a manner that will prevent the horse from dragging the calf. The rope is to be removed from the calf's body as soon as possible

- after the “tie” is approved. Roping calves shall be strong and healthy.
- 8-195 ...PRCA R9.12 Tie-Downs Covered: All chain, metal, and wire tie-downs and bosals must be covered.
- 8-196 ...PRCA R10.4.2 Bareback Riding. Cinches and Latigos: Cinches on the bareback riggings shall be made of mohair or neoprene and shall be at least eight inches in width at the center, but must be tapered to accommodate cinch “D” rings. Latigos must be of leather only.
- 8-197 ...PRCA R10.4.2.1 Bareback Pads: Required bareback pads shall completely cover the underside of the rigging and extend a full two inches behind the rigging.
- 8-198 ...PRCA R10.4.2.2. Pads Must Cover Underside of Rigging: Pads used under riggings must be leather-covered on both sides. No hair pads will be allowed. Only a high-density foam pad at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch thick will be allowed. In addition, the pad must have  $\frac{3}{19}$ -inch-thick leather that covers the handlebars and extends at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch on either side of the handlebars.
- 8-199 ...PRCA R10.6.3.1 Bull Riding; No Bull Tails Under Flank Straps: No bull tails will be allowed under flank straps.
- 8-200 ...PRCA R11.1.4.1 Lining for Timed Event Boxes: In order to protect the horse, the back and side opposite the timed event chute of timed event boxes shall either have a lower rail that is less than three feet above ground level and have no obstruction in the arena from the ground level up to the lower rail, or be lined from the ground level up to a minimum of three feet high with a solid panel. Box pads are likewise required for each timed event box.
- 8-201 ...When filming other events that are not PRCA sanctioned, such as cutting, reining, pole bending, or team penning, please contact American Humane during pre-production for approval.
- 8-202 ...Prior approval must be obtained before filming scenes portraying “wild horse” races, “wild drag” races, or other similar races and/or contests.
- a. These actual events are not permitted and must be staged.
  - b. Only domestically bred rodeo stock may be used.
  - c. No actual wild animals may be used.
  - d. Animals must have prior experience in these events.
  - e. American Humane must be contacted during pre-production for approval and assistance.



## **EXOTIC ANIMAL GUIDELINES**

### **(big cats, bears, elephants, camels, marsupials)**

**Upon review of the script, if American Humane believes there to be any intense animal action, we will strongly encourage the use of computer generated imagery (CGI), animatronics or fake animal doubles to minimize the risk of injury to the animal.**

- 8-203 ...When potentially dangerous exotic animals are on set, there should be at least two animal handlers present. The animal handler(s) must provide production with instructions for cast and crew on how to behave in the presence of such animals. The information shall be attached to the call sheet and must be conveyed to all persons working with or near the animals. (Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #6 Animal Handling.)
- 8-204 ...Whenever exotic animals are utilized, there shall be a safety meeting prior to filming that includes all relevant cast and crew. American Humane shall be invited to participate in all safety meetings.
- 8-205 ...Whenever exotic animals are utilized, the production and/or the animal handler must have an emergency safety plan in place to prevent the escape of any wild or exotic animals and to safely recapture them, without harm to the animal, should they escape. This plan should be discussed before filming with the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative. In the event an animal becomes aggressive or runs off the set, follow the explicit instructions of the animal handlers.
- 8-206 ...Animals should be kept in a quiet, secluded holding area when not working on set. It should be clearly communicated to production members, cast and crew that animals are off-limits when not working. Smaller exotic animals should have a separate room that is temperature controlled when necessary. Larger exotic animals should have a separate sheltered area that cast and crew are prohibited from visiting.
- 8-207 ...Exotic animals should only be called to set when needed for rehearsal or filming. They should not be used as stand-ins or for lighting adjustments.

- 8-208 ....Ample rehearsal time should be permitted to ensure the animal is comfortable with its new surroundings and the action it is required to perform.
- 8-209 ....No food or beverages should be on or near the set when exotic animals are being used. Strong scents, such as perfume, should also be avoided.
- 8-210 ....Exotic animals have keen eyesight and are easily distracted. Once the animal is on set, no extraneous work, movements of people, equipment or props should occur without the verbal consent of the animal handler in advance.
- 8-211 ....Well in advance of filming, animals must be habituated to noises, smells, lights, unusual objects and movements, and special effects (e.g. smoke, explosions, fires) to be used on set.
- 8-212 ....When the animal is on set during filming, once the director yells “cut”, cast and crew should not resume any activities until the animal is secured and under complete control of the animal handlers and the animal handler verbally releases the set. Cast and crew should remain motionless and quiet until given the “go ahead”.
- 8-213 ....The set must be closed. The number of people on the set should be kept to an absolute minimum when animals are present.
- 8-214 ....Conversations and noise must be kept to a minimum when the animal is on set. This includes two-way radio communication.
- 8-215 ....Children should only be on or near the set if they are working in the scene with the animal(s) and it has been cleared with the animal handler. Children may only be near potentially dangerous exotic animals while rehearsing or filming in a controlled environment that is monitored by an animal handler.
- 8-216 ....Absolutely no dogs (or other personal pets) on or near the set except for working dogs with the permission of the animal handler.
- 8-217 ....Whenever possible, tail-slating of the scene should occur once the animal is secured.



## **PRIMATES**

### **Apes (e.g., chimpanzees, orangutans), Monkeys (e.g., capuchins, baboons, macaques) & Prosimians**

**Upon review of the script, if American Humane believes there to be any intense animal action, we will strongly encourage the use of computer generated imagery (CGI), animatronics or fake animal doubles to minimize the risk of injury to the animal.**

*The American Humane Association urges producers to understand the complex issues regarding the use of Primates in filmed media.*

Before deciding to contract for use of Primates in any filmed media production, American Humane urges productions to consider the following issues:

#### **Impact on Primate socialization due to the separation of infant Primates from their mothers:**

- Primates have the longest infant dependency of any animals other than humans, with infant apes dependent on their mothers for up to four years.
- Primates, and apes in particular, learn species appropriate social behavior and cues from their mothers, families, and other group members during their infancy and adolescence.
- Hand-reared and peer-reared Primates suffer from a lack of socialization, often leading to later inability to socialize or become integrated into groups of the same species, or engage in proper reproductive or parenting behavior.

#### **Retirement planning for performing apes:**

- Apes can live up to 60 years and are typically retired by age eight.
- Apes are expensive to properly house, feed, and provide care for.

## **TRAINING**

- 8-218 ...American Humane recommends production use only qualified animal handlers who practice humane training techniques.
- 8-219 ...American Humane encourages that production request USDA inspection reports from owner compounds and training facilities prior to contracting their animals for production, and to reject those suppliers who have recent and/or repeated incidents of animal abuse and/or neglect, or other USDA violations related to animal care and treatment.
- 8-220 ...American Humane recommends that no apes under 18 months of age, and no monkey or prosimian under the age of one year old, be worked on set.
- 8-221 ...Between training sessions, apes should have access to a compatible social companion of the same species.
- 8-222 ...If mothers and infant apes need to be separated for training purposes, American Humane recommends they not be separated until at least age two and, until the age of five, are reunited at the end of each day following training periods. Monkeys and prosimians should not be separated from their mothers for training purposes until at least one year of age.
- 8-223 ...American Humane recommends that production require the animal handler sign an affidavit that they use only positive reinforcement techniques to train and manage animals in filmed entertainment. A copy of the affidavit shall be provided to American Humane prior to production.
- 8-224 ...Production should insist that American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representatives have unrestricted access to and presence on training compounds before, during, and after production to ensure humane training methods are used and to assess the animals' appropriateness for the action prior to shooting.
- 8-225 ...Primates used on sets must appear to be calm, well-behaved, and comfortable in all situations, or American Humane will require a delay in filming.
- 8-226 ...Primates should be worked using only acceptable training methods incorporating positive reinforcement. **Shock collars or other shocking devices are unacceptable training and control methods, and their use is prohibited. Hitting or striking the animals is also prohibited.**
- 8-227 ...Prior to production, Primates must be trained to do all anticipated behaviors and be socially experienced if required to work with other animals of the same or different species. Any changes to scripted action for the animals should be communicated clearly to American Humane and to the animal handler well in advance of scheduled shooting to provide enough time for adequate behavioral training.

## **HOURS OF USAGE AND REST**

- 8-228 ....When Primates are to be used in productions for two or more consecutive days, care must be taken to ensure adequate rest. Animal handlers must know each animal's capabilities for dealing with workloads. The work schedule must allow for regular breaks throughout the day, and breaks and rest schedules must be agreed upon by American Humane.
- 8-229 ....Primates may be on set for no more than eight hours per day beginning at time of arrival (call time) until the animal action is wrapped. Primates may not be worked more than a maximum of 10 hours including travel time. Infant Primates (apes under two and monkeys and prosimians under one year of age) will be limited to a maximum of three to five hours on set per day (individual's capabilities will be assessed by the American Humane Certified Animal Safety Representative).
- 8-230 ....Night time use of Primates is discouraged. However, if Primates are used after sundown, use should not exceed three hours during darkness or occur later than 9 pm, whichever comes first. This time must be factored into the maximum daily limit of eight hours. True nocturnal Primates (e.g., some prosimians, owl monkeys) are best worked at night. However, as these animals have light-sensitive eyes, exposure to strong lighting should be minimized. American Humane should be consulted prior to filming.
- 8-231 ....When a Primate is used past 6 pm, the animal must be conditioned and habituated to working in the evening. Work after dark should be limited to three hours, with frequent breaks (i.e., every half-hour) to rest the animal and assess its ability to continue.
- 8-232 ....If Primates are worked outside after dark, extra precautions due to limited visibility need to be put in place to avoid injury or escape. These precautions must be agreed upon by American Humane.
- 8-233 ....Stages must be kept cool around Primates. Primates may not be on set for reasons other than filming, rehearsing, preparing, or otherwise becoming familiar with objects, persons, or other animals that will be in the scene as agreed to in advance by American Humane.
- 8-234 ....Primates may not be used as stand-ins or for lighting adjustments.
- 8-235 ....American Humane encourages animal handlers to have doubles or backup animals that can be interchanged during production. This provides adequate rest for each individual animal and avoids the coercion of non-cooperative animals.

## **SAFETY**

- 8-236 ....Apes are extremely strong; by the time they are two years old, they have the strength of a full-grown man. A minimum of two handlers must work with each ape over the age of two. Large Primates (e.g., baboons, macaques, gibbons) must also be worked by a minimum of two experienced keepers each.
- 8-237 ....**Primates' teeth must not be modified by filing or cutting for any reason.**

- 8-238 ....The set must be closed to all unnecessary cast and crew when the Primate is on set. When apes are working outside, special precautions are necessary to prevent escape, as apes are extraordinarily quick and have uncanny climbing abilities. These precautions must be agreed upon by American Humane.
- 8-239 ....Stages must be checked by the animal handler and American Humane for escape routes and potential hazards. Because apes and monkeys can quickly climb to great heights, and are capable of opening and closing doors, drawers, and other objects, any products containing harmful chemicals or sharp items must be removed from the area. Props used on the set must be checked by the animal handler and American Humane.
- 8-240 ....Clothes used on Primates must be loose fitting, easy to put on or remove (Velcro® is preferred), and may not interfere with Primates' senses or natural movements – including walking, climbing, hearing, or sight.
- 8-241 ....Prior to filming, Primates must be introduced to characters and stationary or moving objects that are frightening or otherwise unnatural. For example, Primates must be familiarized with any animatronic objects or costumed persons, such as clowns or beasts.
- 8-242 ....Safety meetings will be held routinely with cast and crew (following a schedule approved by American Humane), especially on long shoots, to maintain awareness that Primates are wild animals and can pose a potential risk. Primates must be treated with respect and caution at all times. It must also be stressed that each animal has a distinct personality, and that cast and crew must not become overly relaxed around the animals, thinking they know their behaviors. Cast and crew must maintain respect for Primates' capabilities at all times.
- 8-243 ....Animals must be kept in a quiet, secluded holding area when not working on the set. It shall be clearly communicated to cast and crew that animals are off limits when they are not working.

## **HOUSING AND GENERAL CARE**

- 8-244 ....If Primates come from different suppliers/animal handlers, provisions must be made to keep the animals separate. When they must work together, a veterinarian with experience in Primates shall evaluate the health status of the individual animals and give a clean bill of health for each prior to each working with other animals.
- 8-245 ....American Humane strongly encourages owners and animal handlers to have retirement plans for apes and monkeys used in entertainment and further recommends that productions require proof of such a plan before contracting with Primate trainers.
- 8-246 ....American Humane recommends that production companies require sufficient holding cages or enclosures that at a minimum meet USDA/APHIS standards, and that these be available to house Primates during the shoot (see appendix with USDA regulations). American Humane considers these standards to be at a minimal level and that humane owners and trainers will exceed these standards.



- 8-247 ...During the production, housing facilities must be designed and constructed so that they are structurally safe for the species of Primates housed in them. Housing must be kept in good repair, protect the animals from injury, contain the animals securely, and restrict other animals from entering. Such space and conditions must be approved by American Humane.
- 8-248 ...During filming, Primates must be kept in facilities that provide shelter from wind, rain, and extreme temperature variations. Ambient temperatures must be kept between 50 and 85 degrees, ideally in the 70s.
- 8-249 ...When apes work on the set for two or more consecutive full days (i.e., six or more hours per day), a play area, empty room, or private park where apes may safely and securely exercise and relax must be provided.
- 8-250 ...When apes work on the set for two or more consecutive full days (i.e., six or more hours per day), a compatible social companion of the same species must be provided to the apes to interact with during down time (unless apes are returned to their social group after each day's work). Duration and frequency of breaks must be approved by American Humane.
- 8-251 ...During filming, Primates may only be housed in enclosures that do not permit the transfer of waste materials between enclosures.
- 8-252 ...While on the set, all Primates must be provided with spill-proof sources of water and in a device that is not easily soiled. Water sources must be checked frequently throughout the day to ensure access to clean potable water. When Primates are bottle-fed, American Humane will monitor feeding/watering schedules.
- 8-253 ...During production, Primates must never be left unattended.

### **ZOOBOTIC DISEASE RISKS**

- 8-254 ...Proof of negative TB tests must be provided by the owner or trainer for each Primate used as determined by statute. For certain species, additional tests (e.g., Herpes B virus, Hepatitis A&B) must be provided. American Humane must be provided an up-to-date record of vaccinations/infectious disease tests for each Primate involved in a production or a letter from the attending veterinarian stating why a specific test has not been given and/or is unwarranted for the individual animal.
- 8-255 ...If Primates are to be mixed with other non-Primate animals, veterinary health certificates must be presented to American Humane, prior to production, along with any vaccination records as deemed appropriate by American Humane.
- 8-256 ...Issues and risks of zoonotic disease transmission will be clearly communicated to cast and crew, as well as the need to wash hands and any other body parts that come into contact with Primates. Because of their close genetic relationship, apes and monkeys can share many of the same colds and diseases to which humans are susceptible. Apes and monkeys not only can be potential disease

vectors but also can become gravely ill from humans. A written handout describing proper hygienic practices will be distributed by American Humane and discussed with cast and crew.

- 8-257 ...Any time a primate defecates or urinates on set, work must stop and the area thoroughly cleaned to prevent spread of communicable diseases
- 8-258 ...Human contact with apes and monkeys shall be limited to only those persons necessary for filming. Any cast or crew member with a cold, respiratory infection or other contagious virus must be prevented from working near any Primate until the cast or crew member is fully recovered. This should also include people working around sets or with equipment Primates have access to, or around holding facilities for the animals.
- 8-259 ...Primates showing respiratory symptoms (e.g. nasal discharge, coughing or sneezing) must be examined by a qualified veterinarian prior to returning to work. Possible contagion issues will be discussed with cast and crew.
- 8-260 ...Primate bites or scratches that break the skin should be evaluated to determine the necessity for medical attention. American Humane requires documentation that production has reported the bite to appropriate animal control agencies.
- a. A physician will examine any Primate bite or scratch to a human.
  - b. A veterinarian will examine any Primate bite to another animal.
  - c. Any Primate bite that requires medical or veterinary attention must be reported by production to the local animal control agency or public health agency (as appropriate in the jurisdiction). Documentation of the report must be provided to American Humane. In addition, American Humane will notify local animal control agencies as to the presence of Primates on location for filming.
  - d. Production will provide both the person who was bitten (or the owner of the animal bitten) and the animal control agency/health agency with the biting Primate's licensing and vaccination information and its owner's name and address, and will provide copy of such documentation to American Humane.

### **ENRICHMENT / PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING**

- 8-261 ...The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) mandates certain protocols for ensuring Primates' psychological well-being, including provisions for environmental enrichment in the animals' enclosures. When apes work at a distant location from their home facility for two or more consecutive full days, enrichment of its temporary holding enclosures must be met. This includes appropriate perching and nesting furnishings as well as behavioral and psychological enrichment activities and equipment, as agreed upon by American Humane.



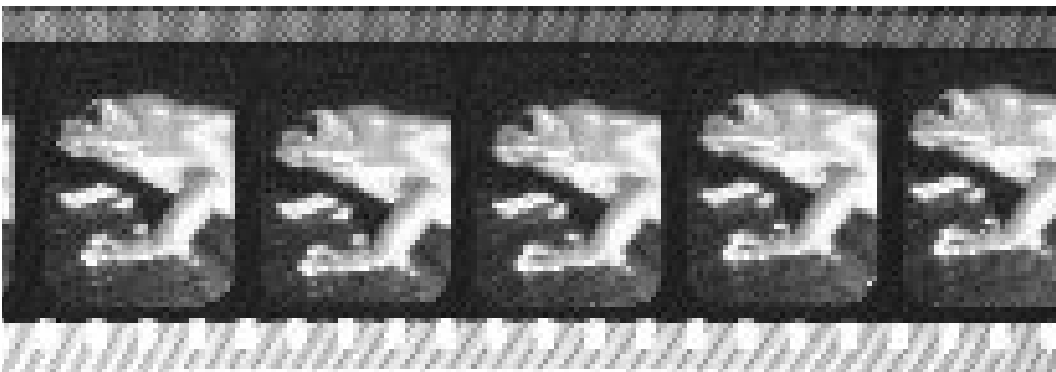
## REPTILE GUIDELINES (snakes, lizards)

**Upon review of the script, if American Humane believes there to be any intense animal action, we will strongly encourage the use of computer generated imagery (CGI), animatronics or fake animal doubles to minimize the risk of injury to the animal.**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Reptiles are known to carry *Salmonella*. When reptiles are used and handled on a set, antibacterial gel and/or simple hand washing with soap and warm water shall be made available and its use among cast and crew encouraged. The Centers for Disease Control lists children, the elderly, and those with impaired immune systems as particularly at risk of infection.

- 8-262 ....Only animal handlers with knowledge of the specific reptile species shall be used.
- 8-263 ....Reptiles shall be provided with adequate housing for the species. (Please see housing section in Chapter 1 of these *Guidelines*.) Sand or wood shavings are not recommended for most species because they are often eaten by the animal and can cause digestive impaction.
- 8-264 ....When using dangerous reptiles, a safety meeting must be called to include all relevant cast and crew. American Humane shall be invited to participate in the safety meeting. (Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #12 Venomous Reptiles.)
- 8-265 ....When using snakes and other animals together in the same scene, care must be taken to protect the safety of both the snakes and the other animals. Each must be accustomed to being around the other.
- 8-266 ....When venomous snakes are used with other animals or actors, safety precautions must be taken for the welfare of all concerned. These precautions may include the use of barrier glass and/or the use of professional snake wranglers as stand-ins for stunt people.

- 8-267 ...**American Humane does not condone the suturing of snakes' mouths for filmed entertainment. Should questions of human safety be at issue, please call American Humane for consultation.**
- 8-268 ...When venomous snakes are used, production or animal handlers must provide an adequate supply of appropriate anti-venin and a person licensed to administer it. Production must notify the nearest medical facility about the use of venomous snakes, and ascertain and post a map, directions, and phone number of a medical facility equipped to handle venomous snake bites. Any person bitten by a snake should go to a medical facility whether or not anti-venin is administered on set. (Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #6.13 Animal Handling.)
- 8-269 ...Under no circumstances can a snake's fangs be pulled, clipped, or otherwise altered.
- 8-270 ...Snakes may only be milked onscreen if done by an experienced snake handler familiar with the procedure. They may not be milked in an attempt to reduce the amount of venom in the snake's fangs because milking does not completely eliminate venom.
- 8-271 ...Carbon dioxide or dry ice may not be used around snakes or other reptiles. Should a production or animal handler need to slow down the movements of a snake or other reptile, temporary containment in a box or other darkened condition shall be allowed. A 10- to 20-degree drop in temperature is natural and is the maximum that a snake or other reptile shall be required to endure. When cooling methods are used, American Humane must grant prior approval and production or the animal handler must indicate the method employed to gradually cool and warm the animal.
- 8-272 ...Before and after handling a reptile, individuals must wash their hands with warm water and mild soap. The reptile must be gently scooped up, taking care to provide full support with one hand and using the second hand to ensure they do not fall or otherwise escape. When in doubt, please check with the animal handler or coordinator.



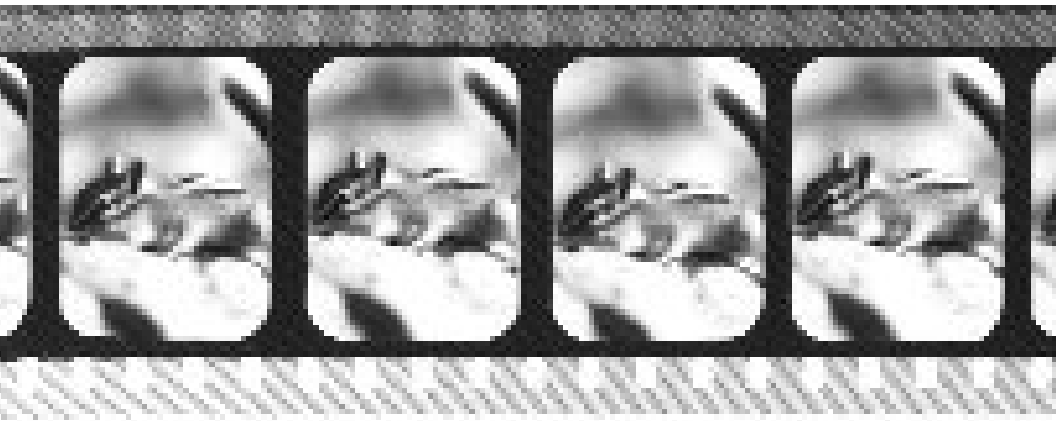
## **AMPHIBIAN GUIDELINES (frogs, salamanders)**

**Upon review of the script, if American Humane believes there to be any intense animal action, we will strongly encourage the use of computer generated imagery (CGI), animatronics or fake animal doubles to minimize the risk of injury to the animal.**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Amphibians are known to carry *Salmonella*. When amphibians are used and handled on a set, antibacterial gel and/or simple hand washing with soap and warm water shall be made available and its use among cast and crew encouraged. The Centers for Disease Control lists children, the elderly, and those with impaired immune systems as particularly at risk of infection.

- 8-273 ....An animal handler with knowledge of the specific amphibian species shall be used.
- 8-274 ....Amphibians shall be provided with adequate housing for the species. (Please see housing section in Chapter 1 of these *Guidelines*.) Like fish, water quality is important to the health of amphibians. The use of chlorine/chloramine removers (sold in aquarium shops) to de-chlorinate the water and remove other contaminants shall be used.
- 8-275 ....Sand or wood shavings are not recommended for most species because they are often eaten by the animal and can cause digestive impaction.
- 8-276 ....Carbon dioxide or dry ice may not be used around amphibians. Should a production or animal handler need to slow down the movements of an amphibian, temporary containment in a box or other darkened condition shall be allowed. A 10- to 20-degree drop in temperature is natural and is the maximum that an amphibian shall be required to endure. When cooling methods are used, American Humane must grant prior approval and production or the animal handler must indicate the method employed to gradually cool and warm the animal.

- 8-277 ....Most salamanders are not suitable for handling. Should a salamander need to be handled, a mesh fish net shall be used.
- 8-278 ....As with fish, the oils, salts, and heat in human skin can be toxic to amphibians. Salamanders and other amphibians generally have extremely sensitive, permeable skin. Many salamanders and other amphibians excrete toxic fluid from their skin that can harm humans.
- 8-279 ....Before and after handling an amphibian, individuals must wash their hands with warm water and mild soap. The amphibian must be gently scooped up, taking care to provide full support with one hand and using the second hand to ensure they do not fall or otherwise escape. Never hold an amphibian with two fingers. When in doubt, please check with the animal handler or coordinator.



## WILDLIFE GUIDELINES

**Upon review of the script, if American Humane believes there to be any intense animal action, we will strongly encourage the use of computer generated imagery (CGI), animatronics or fake animal doubles to minimize the risk of injury to the animal.**

**NOTE:** Also see Safety Bulletin Recommended by Industry-wide-Labor-Management Safety Committee #31 Indigenous "Critters."

- 8-280 ....When filming in a location where wildlife may appear naturally, film crews shall not interfere with such wildlife in any way and may not film wildlife without the involvement of American Humane.
- 8-281\* ....Should the need arise to remove a wild animal from a location for human safety and/or animal welfare, the production company shall contact the appropriate state wildlife department for professional assistance. An animal handler knowledgeable in the species of animal and familiar with proper removal and relocation techniques shall be used. In certain situations, USDA, federal and state wildlife regulations shall also apply.
- 8-282\* ....The permanent release of non-indigenous animals is prohibited and strictly enforced by federal and state laws.
- 8-283\* ....**PRIOR APPROVAL** from American Humane for the permanent release of indigenous animals is required.
- a. The production company and/or animal handler must provide, in advance, proof of a proper "release" permit or written permission approving the permanent release of indigenous animal(s) granted by the appropriate federal, state, and/or local agencies. This permit or written permission must include the type and number of animals being released, and approval of the location of the release.

- b. In order to survive permanent release, the animal must become independent and wary of people. A number of factors should be considered when selecting a location for the animal(s) release. Does the selected area provide adequate food and shelter? Is both vehicle and human traffic sparse? Are hunting and trapping permitted?
  - c. Once the appropriate permits are obtained and American Humane has approved an animal for permanent release, the cage should be kept outside in a protected area during the day and the location changed daily. An animal being permanently released should have at least one week of outside exposure prior to release.
- 8-284\*...Certain animals deemed “invasive” by law shall not be permanently released.
- 8-285 ...No animal shall be permanently released in inclement weather. Air temperature, wind, rain, and snow all play a role when an animal is first released into the wild, affecting their chances of survival.
- 8-286\*...NEVER TOUCH OR HANDLE WILDLIFE! Wildlife are not trained animal actors and are not familiar with humans. Wildlife are known to carry diseases that can affect other animals as well as humans.
- 8-287 ...**In most areas, it is illegal to kill, capture, take, possess, or permanently release wildlife without prior approval or a permit from the appropriate state agency. The removal, handling, or taking of animal parts such as bones, antlers, feathers, eggs, or nests is also illegal.**
- 8-288 ...It is production’s responsibility to ensure the safety of natural animals in the filming area, and to consult the agency or persons responsible for the removal of wildlife from location sets. Any such animals that remain on the set are subject to American Humane’s Guidelines. If native animals are not to remain on the set, they must be carefully removed, relocated, properly housed, cared for, and then safely returned to their habitat after filming.
- 8-289 ...Production may not intentionally harm – and must take precautionary measures to protect – nests, dens, caves, caverns, and other living spaces of animals.
- 8-290 ...Care must be taken to ensure that non-indigenous animals are removed from the area after production.

Any person or persons who knowingly and willfully violate(s) any part of the American Humane *Guidelines* or commit(s) any act of intentional cruelty or neglect shall be in violation of American Humane’s *Guidelines* and/or state statutes pertaining to animal cruelty, resulting in possible prosecution.



*American Humane Association would like to thank the following experts, scientists, behaviorists, and professors for lending their knowledge and expertise to the revision of our 2005 Guidelines.*

**GENERAL TOPICS**

USDA/APHIS  
Jim Rogers  
Media Coordinator

**PRIMATES**

Kenneth Gold, PhD  
Primatologist

Gail Laule  
Principal  
Active Environments

Linda Brent, PhD  
President  
Chimp Haven

David Shephardson, PhD  
Conservation Program Scientist  
The Oregon Zoo

Sian Evans, PhD  
Director  
DuMond Conservancy for Primates  
and Tropical Forests

**FISH**

Helen E. Roberts, DVM  
Aquatic Veterinary Services of Western  
New York

Fredric L. Frye, DVM  
Fish Pathologist

Michael Weiss, DVM  
Koi Veterinary Services

David Crosby, PhD  
Fish Health Specialist, Biologist  
Virginia State University

**HORSES**

Cindy Schonholtz  
PRCA Animal Welfare Program

Kent Allen, DVM  
Veterinarian  
U.S. Olympic Equestrian Team -1996  
Olympic Games

Kevin Flammer, DVM  
Professor, Clinical Sciences  
Department of the Veterinary Medical  
School  
North Carolina State University

Richard Hackett, DVM, MS  
Professor of Surgery  
Chair, Department of Clinical Sciences  
Cornell University-College of  
Veterinary Medicine

Jerry Nukols  
Horse trainer and retired jockey

Jennifer Nadeau, PhD  
Equine Extension Specialist  
University of Connecticut

**WATER SAFETY FOR ANIMALS –  
WEATHER & STORMS**

Douglas D. Knapp  
Hydraulic Engineer  
Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers

David N. Spicer  
National Disaster Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Luis A. Fusté  
Hydrologist  
U.S. Geological Survey

Peter J. Marziale  
Set Safety & Emergency Services  
Richmond, VA

### **REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS**

Richard Funk, DVM, MA  
VCA Mesa Veterinary Hospital

Charles Innes, VMD  
New England Aquarium  
Past President of the Association of  
Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians

Kevin Wright, DVM  
University Animal Hospital in Tempe,  
AZ  
Former Director of Conservation,  
Science & Sanctuary, Phoenix Zoo

Fredric L. Frye, DVM  
Recognized World Authority on Reptile  
Medicine

### **INSECTS**

David T. Langston, PhD  
Entomologist  
University of Arizona

Richard Jones, PhD  
Director  
International Bee Research Association

Rick Fell, PhD  
Professor, Department of Entomology  
Virginia Tech

### **WILDLIFE**

The Ark  
Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education  
Center

### **HELICOPTERS**

Illinois Department of Transportation  
Division of Aeronautics

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)  
Rules, Regulations, etc.

### **USE OF YOUNG ANIMALS**

Raffy Dorian, DVM, MPVM

### **SPECIAL EFFECTS**

Hank Atterbury  
SPX Technician

Mark Hughes  
Historical Gun Expert

R. Vern Crofoot  
Master Armorer, Property Master  
Historic Film Services, Inc.

Larry Fioritto  
Special Effects Supervisor  
Special FX Services

Independent Studio Services  
Gunfire: Instructions & Warnings



**American  
Humane  
Association**

*Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877*

The American Humane Association's mission is to prevent cruelty, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children and animals, and to assure that their interests and well-being are fully, effectively, and humanely guaranteed by an aware and caring society.

**National Headquarters**

63 Inverness Drive East  
Englewood, CO 80112

Phone: 303-792-9900

Fax: 303-792-5333

**Film & Television Unit**

15366 Dickens Street  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Phone: 818-501-0123

FAX: 818-501-8725

**Government Affairs Office**

2007 North 15th Street, Suite 201  
Arlington, VA 22201

Phone: 703-294-6690

Fax: 703-294-4853