

Performing Arts Safety Bulletin #1

ANIMAL HANDLING RULES



1. The safety of working animals and the persons working on such productions shall be of primary concern.

2. Training should be provided to persons working with animals.

3. The trainer or person supplying the animal shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations, permits, applicable licenses and medical safeguards.

4. It is the responsibility of the trainer or the person supplying the animal to convey to the cast and crew specific safety concerns relative to the animals being used. The trainer shall address the cast and crew regarding safety precautions while animals are on the set (eg., maintain a safe distance from wild and exotic animals, no personal pets, no feeding, no running, escape routes, etc.)

5. The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies' (CFHS) position statement on the use of animals in entertainment opposes the administration of any drug for non-therapeutic purposes in order to alter the performance or behaviour of the animals.

As a safety backup, consideration should be given to the availability of tranquilizing equipment. Potentially dangerous or complicated animal action should warrant the presence of a qualified veterinarian.

6. Equipment operated in conjunction with working animals should be in a safe operating condition as determined by the trainer and/or wrangler in conjunction with the property master. Basic animal safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, fire hoses and nets should be readily available.

7. The smell of alcohol has a disquieting effect on animals. All precautions shall be taken in that regard when animals are working.