

Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement Home, Inc.

Escaped Equine Policy

General Information

It must be stated at the onset that the following information can at best only be a guide towards the action to be taken in the event of an escaped horse, each incident of escape being unique in the sense of circumstance, both in place, time of day or night, number and temperament of the escaped horse, the number of visitors at Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement Home, Inc., and the number and experience of volunteers available at the time of the escape.

For these reasons everyone must be prepared to use their initiative and react quickly and intelligently to rapidly changing situations and circumstances.

It should always be borne in mind, however, that the safety of the public, other volunteers and your own personal safety are of primary importance. Any independent action must take this aspect(s) into account.

Although it may be stating the obvious, one of the first objectives after reporting the incident is to attempt to contain the horse(s) within the immediate area without cutting off their route back to their pasture.

Remember that most escaped horses are in an alien environment and if left undisturbed will often settle down to take stock of their situation.

See if there are any empty pastures into which the animal may be driven.

Unless you are confident that you can effectively and safely recapture the horse on your own — wait until help arrives.

Do not expect orders and instructions to be given in a polite manner, the recapture of an escaped horse(s) can be extremely stressful for everyone concerned.

Whatever the situation(s) you are presented with always try and remain calm and in control, deliver and receive information in a smooth and efficient manner.

Reporting an escaped horse situation

By Telephone

As soon as you discover that a horse has escaped proceed to the nearest telephone (informing any other volunteers that you may meet en — route) and contact the Executive Director immediately.

The Executive Director

The Executive Director (ED) will direct the recapture of the escaped horse(s) at the site of the incident. In the absence of the Executive Director the Barn Manager will assume this responsibility. If it is discovered that the horse has left Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement Home, Inc. property the ED will decide when to contact any outside resources. The ED will also have the responsibility of informing any law enforcement agencies if needed.

Volunteers

Only experienced volunteers will attempt to recapture horses. The ED will coordinate all volunteers through verbal commands or via cell phone(s). Before attempting to recapture the escaped horse(s) make sure that all other horses are safe and secure. Also, make sure all boundary gates are closed and latched. The safety of all volunteers during an escape incident is the responsibility of all volunteers.

Visiting public

In the event of the escape of a horse, all volunteers not involved with the recapture will be instructed by the ED to inform visitors of the situation in a polite and calm manner. Volunteers under instruction from the ED will direct visitors in a calm manner to a central location.

Things to Remember

Familiarize yourself with the horses and the potential dangers that each horse may pose.

Familiarize yourself with the layout of the barn and pastures so you may report the exact location of the escaped horse(s) accurately.

Safe Areas: These can be any solid buildings, field, or stall that can be closed and latched

Do not discuss the details of any escape with anyone outside of Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement Home, Inc. All enquires (particularly from the media) should be referred to the ED or Public Relations Officer.

Finally, familiarize yourself with this escape procedure.