



American Shetland Pony Club, Inc.,

American Shetland Pony Registry | American Miniature Horse Registry | American Show Pony Registry

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To All Show Managers, Stewards, and Judges –

Safety and security of our Members is so important to our organization!

That's why club representatives share the responsibility for maintaining safety and compliance standards established by our club in the various states and countries in which we conduct operations.

The American Shetland Pony Club, Inc. is committed to providing a safe environment for exhibitors, employees and vendors by meeting or exceeding applicable safety standards.

As Show Managers, Stewards and Judges, you are key for ensuring that exhibitors understand these standards and are equipped to recognize and control hazards in and outside the show ring at various venues.

As our judges attend clinics, we are introducing them to our new Safety Program. We ask that you allow the judges, stewards, announcers and show staff to meet very briefly just prior to the start of the event and hold a Pre-Competition Safety Meeting.

In a shared responsibility, each of us must act safely and report incidents and occurrences that reduce or have the potential to reduce the level of safety. Timely reporting of such information through the established non-punitive safety reporting programs is essential and encouraged.

Enclosed is a copy of the form and protocol we have asked our judges to fill out should an incident occur, please keep it with your packet so its accessible if needed.

The American Shetland Pony Club, Inc. has an uncompromising commitment to safety, and compliance is the responsibility of each and every person.

**Amber Kildow
Judges Committee Chairperson**

American Shetland Pony Club, Inc. Accident Prevention & Competition Guidelines

– Effective May 2010

Purpose

In an effort to be proactive for the Members and their horses during shows, these protocols establish suggested guidelines for judges, announcers, ringmasters, gate keepers, stewards, staff, volunteers and competitors should an unsafe situation arise during a show. These are generally accepted best practices for driving events and modifications will likely be made for local conditions.

Scope

Every incident is unique and has a life of its own. A Pre-Competition Safety Meeting identifies the personnel involved in an event and their roles in the protocol, and grants responsibility for directing the conduct of people and animals both inside and outside the primary event areas including the warm-up areas, stabling areas, parking areas, etc.

Pre-Competition Safety Meeting

Controlling driving event areas is a team effort. Prior to the competitions, Organizers and Officials should have a Driving Safety Meeting prior to the start of the event to discuss their roles in the emergency protocol.

The Judge (or other designated official if there is no judge) has the responsibility for directing the conduct of all participants in the main event areas (show ring, obstacle courses, etc.)

Stewards, technical delegates, and show management have the responsibility for directing the conduct of the people and equine outside the primary event (warm-up areas, stabling, and parking areas).

Announcers often have the best overview of the event and may see an incident developing. They are the “voice” of management and play a key role in emergency management. They must deliver information with a calm, level headed, authoritative demeanor to achieve a positive outcome.

Show Management have numbers posted and readily available for Police, Fire, Emergency (often it is 911, but could be different in some areas), and Veterinarians.

Assure that at least one suitable halter and lead is kept in the primary event area in a location known by all event personnel.

Loose or Runaway Horse Emergency Protocol

The announcer shall ask for everyone’s attention: Call for perimeter gates to be closed. Ask all entries to walk and make their way carefully off the rail to the center of the ring. Drivers should remain in their vehicles, and experienced horsemen and headers may enter the arena to head horses. Remind them to do this with care. Junior drivers should be advised to remain in their vehicles.

Ringmasters and capable horsemen will be asked to assist in keeping the loose horse(s) on the rail. Nothing should be done that will unnecessarily scare the horse. The animal may not take the width of the vehicle into account when judging their escape routes. Many situations are made worse when allowed to cut through the center of the ring between other horses, therefore, allow the horse(s) to run on the rail without attempts to jump in front of, grab, or corral them until they obviously start to tire. Forcing or moving the horse(s) too close to the rail can cause the vehicle to hit the rail and overturn.

Unless directed by an official, do not open gates or let horses out.

Designate someone to provide immediate attention and protection to any person down on the ground or obviously injured. Notify staff outside the arena to call for medical assistance if someone has been injured.

Once the horse(s) tires they will slow their pace and may attempt to join the herd. They may often come down to a walk or halt and can safely be caught at this point.

Once the horse(s) is caught, the person at the head will be in charge of the animal(s): When the horse's head is reliably controlled, if un-harnessing is necessary, assistants may unhitch as quickly, quietly, and as orderly as possible. If there is more than one animal, do not remove an animal from the immediate area until all are free. Do not rely on the driver to make decisions; they could be in shock from the incident.

If an ambulance is needed, all entries should exit the event area quietly at a walk before the ambulance is allowed in the arena. Advise the ambulance driver to turn off lights and sirens when entering the show grounds to avoid scaring additional animals. Someone should be designated to meet the ambulance and direct them to the location of the injured person(s).

After the Accident

If injuries have occurred to a person or horse review the Accident Reporting Procedures, make proper notifications immediately and complete the American Shetland Pony Club, Inc. Accident Report and forward the information to the Office within 10 days. The incident will be reviewed and evaluated for future reference.

The information contained is provided in order to supply suggested guidelines in the event of an accident. American Shetland Pony Club, Inc. makes no representation of warranties about completeness and reliability or suitability of this plan. Horses are unpredictable and equestrian events are participated in at your own risk. In no event will American Shetland Pony Club, Inc., or its officials at sanctioned shows, be liable for any loss, damage including without limitation, indirect or consequential loss or damage, or any loss or damage whatsoever arising from the use of, or in connection with, the use of this plan.