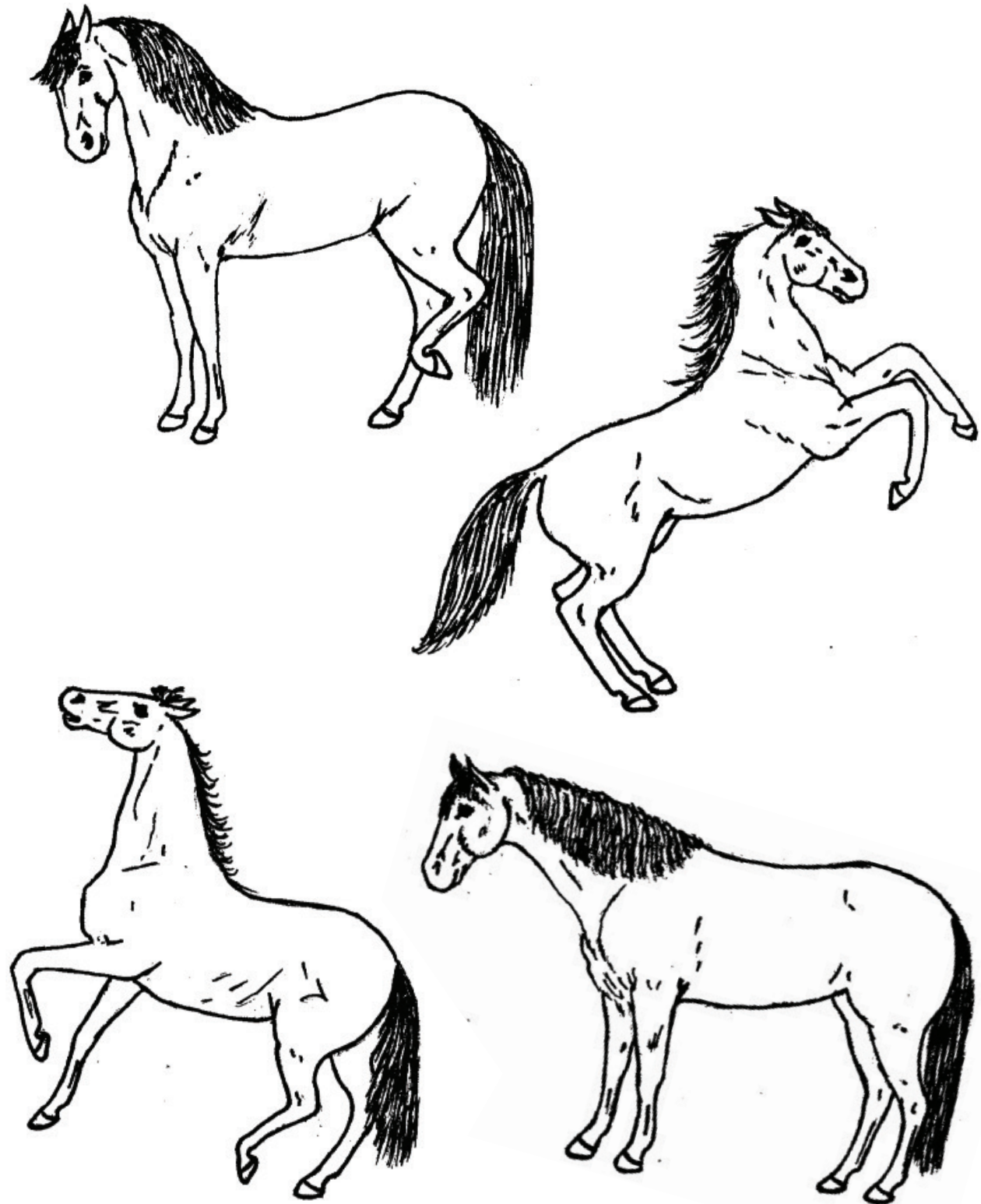


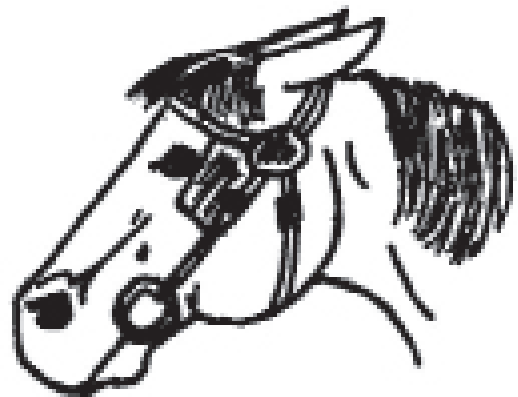
Approaching Animals Safely (Activity 2 resources)



Approaching Animals Safely (Activity 3 resources)



Approaching Animals Safely (Activity 4 resources)



Approaching Animals Safely (continued)

Objective: Students will approach horses by touching them gently and speaking softly.

Concept: Horses have monocular vision, meaning they have a blind spot in front of their nose, under their head and directly behind them. Understanding how animals see will help students approach them safely.

Targeted Age: Elementary

Materials: Flat box (Approximately 12" x 24")

Have a student pretend he/she is a horse with monocular vision by holding a large cardboard pizza box or shirt box directly under his/her chin. Explain that this is similar to not being able to see under your nose like a horse.

Before starting the activity, prompt one student to sneak up on the volunteer from under the box and grab his/her leg while at the same time, yelling loudly. Determine a key word ahead of time (such as pizza or shirt) to use as a signal. The volunteer will probably jump.

Using the same situation, try the activity again by having another student gently and quietly approach the "horse."

Q: How does the noise level affect the "horse?"

A: A loud noise can startle an animal. When both sight and hearing are compromised, the animal is more likely to bolt.

Q: How does the way the "horse" is touched affect the demonstration?

A: Touching the animal roughly will spook the animal and cause them to jump.



Approaching Animals Safely (continued)

Objective: Students will learn the importance of staying out of an animal's prime kicking zone.

Targeted Age: Elementary through high school

Materials:

- ▶ Martial Arts Instructor
- ▶ 1" x 12" x 12" boards

ACTIVITY 1

Ask the Martial Arts instructor to demonstrate how to break a board using his/her leg or hand. Have the instructor explain to the students how the optimal distance for a kick that will break the board is at the fullest extension of the arm or leg. Make an analogy between a human's kick and a cow or horse's kick. When you are kicked at the peak reach of an animal's legs, the kick can easily break bones.

ACTIVITY 2

You can do a similar activity to the one listed above by just using two people and having one stand very close to the other and try to either punch or kick them using your closest hand or leg (don't do it hard). You will not be able to get much momentum behind the motion.

Have the recipient move about two feet away from the aggressor and then pretend to punch or kick the recipient (again don't actually hit them). Show how much more force the aggressor has behind their motion. Explain why a person can be hurt so much more by standing two or more feet away.

Q: Would it be safer to be up close to an animal or 3 feet away?

A: Up close to an animal is safer. When you are standing a couple feet away the animal's kick can reach its full momentum and be very harmful. If you are close and the animal kicks, the impact is less. Stand very close to the animal when grooming or handling livestock. If you are not grooming or handling, stay far away from the animal's reach.

Stress that when working in close proximity to an animal it's kick cannot gain full momentum which reduces the amount of pressure of impact. It is safest to either stay well beyond the reach of the animal's legs or in very close proximity.

