

Dangerous Horse Behavior Policy

Purpose

In order to maintain a safe environment the Earlham College Stables has designed a policy that classifies a dangerous horse and details a procedure in dealing with dangerous or potentially dangerous horses.

Policy

A. Classification of dangerous behavior

1. Horses are considered to be dangerous if they threaten the safety of others.
 - a. This includes behavior that causes or could potentially cause harm to people or other horses in the program.
 - b. Potentially harmful behavior includes but is not limited to kicking, biting, charging, or striking.

B. Dangerous school horses

1. In addition to the above qualifications school horses are considered to be dangerous if they are a danger to the rider or other horses while under saddle.
 - a. Potentially harmful behavior under saddle includes but is not limited to consistent bucking, rearing, spinning or bolting.
2. The dangerous behavior and a course of action will be discussed in co-op.
3. A school horse may be put on a probationary period for a minimum of two weeks, which is designed to give the Barn Staff a chance to work with and improve the horse's behavior.
 - a. The horse's progress will be discussed by Barn Staff and co-op to evaluate the horse's behavior.
 - b. The course of action may include the horse being placed on restrictive handling.
 - i. Restrictive handling of a school horse involves the horse being handled only by Barn Staff (primarily the Horse Care Manager). This includes turn in and turnout, any vet or farrier work, and any emergencies.
 - ii. When a horse comes off restrictive handling, it may be gradually reintroduced to co-op handling (for example only instructors may handle it for the first week).
4. Medical causes for dangerous behavior should be investigated and taken into consideration in the decision making process.
5. In extreme cases, when a horse has shown no progress or the horse is determined to be too dangerous and unsafe for the program, the horse may be asked to leave or not permitted to return.

C. Dangerous boarder horses

1. Boarders may ride their horses at their own risk as long as they are not dangerous to other horses or people.
2. Boarder horses that exhibit dangerous behavior will be discussed between Barn Staff, the owner, and administration if necessary.
3. If a boarder horse exhibits dangerous behavior, they may be put on a probationary period for a minimum of two weeks. This period is designed to give the owner a chance to work with and improve the horse's behavior.

- a. The owner may be asked to come up with a plan of action that must be approved by Barn Staff to help eliminate the horse's dangerous behavior.
 - b. Barn Staff will be updated on the horse's progress and may determine that further action needs to be taken.
 - c. The course of action may include the horse being placed on restrictive handling.
 - i. Restrictive handling of boarder horses involves the owner being the sole handler. This includes turn in and turnout, any vet or farrier work, and any emergencies. This can be voluntary or required by Barn Staff.
 - ii. When a horse comes off restrictive handling, it may be gradually reintroduced to co-op handling (for example only instructors may handle it for the first week).
2. Medical causes for dangerous behavior should be investigated and taken into consideration in the decision making process.
 3. In extreme cases, when a horse has shown no progress or the horse is determined to be too dangerous and unsafe for the program, the horse may be asked to leave or not permitted to return.
 4. Lack of cooperation in the creation or execution of the plan of action on the owner's part can result in the horse's removal.

*** All situations regarding the dangerous behavior of a horse will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and Barn Staff will make the final decision.**