

Right from the Start

Outline

Safety Basics

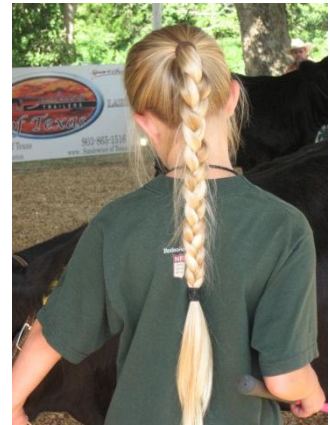
Attire

- Closed-toe shoes
- Close fitting clothing
- No dangling jewelry
- Tie back long hair



Attitude

- Handlers should possess the following qualities:
 - Sense of responsibility
 - Calm demeanor
 - Patience
 - Determination



Flight Zone

- Distance that animals like to keep between themselves and a threat of danger
- Animal's safety zone
- Varies among animals
- Increases when an animal is excited or approached from the front

Approaching

- Make animals aware of your presence.
- Approach where the animal can see you.
- Approach calmly and quietly.
- Never approach an animal in its blind spot.

Danger Points

- Danger points vary depending on the species of livestock.
- Typical danger points include:
 - Body mass
 - Head
 - Feet

Equipment Risks

- Lead rope
 - Use a thick, cotton lead rope. Nylon lead ropes are more likely to cause rope burns.
 - Do not wrap the lead rope around your hand.
 - The lead rope for cattle should be about 2 feet long to avoid tripping over the slack. The lead rope for horses should be 9-12 feet long.
- Neck chains
 - Neck chains should have a plastic covering or a leather piece for the handler to hold in order to reduce pinching risks.
- Squeeze chutes
 - Chutes require regular maintenance to stay in good working order.
 - Avoid pinch points.
 - Be aware of the tipping risk. Use restraints to keep animals in the appropriate place inside the chute.
- Grooming tools
 - Grooming tools could pose a burn or cut risk. Wear gloves while grooming to protect your hands.

