

Alice the Pony's March Blog

Hi, it's Alice the Pony again.

When I was a much younger Pony I used to always buck my rider off. Now that I am a bit older and wiser I know that it was not a nice thing to do to my rider. My humans bought a safety vest for my rider to help keep her safe when she rode me. My little brother Oliver also liked to make his rider fall off sometimes but even he now thinks that it is not really a fun thing to do. We talk a lot about safety during the night when we are alone in the barn. Oliver says sometimes he gets scared and jumps or shy's but he does not mean to do it, it just happens. Oliver gets scared a lot, but I don't because I am not a silly Horse, but a smart Pony. But I do remember only just a little while ago that I accidentally kicked my friend. I did not mean to, but I did kick her.

So we were thinking that it would be good to tell humans how to keep safe around horses so that we don't accidentally bite or kick them.

Horses and Ponies have really good eyesight and we can see things that are far away. But because our eyes are in special places on each side of our heads we cannot always see what is directly in front of us. Whenever you come up to a horse or pony be sure not to approach straight on, as we might not see you there. You might scare us and we might try to run away.

We also don't like humans sneaking up behind us. It scares us. It is also scary when you run up to us and make a lot of noise or wave your hands around. These are some of the things that make us run or kick out. Be really careful when you approach us, quietly let us know you are coming and we won't get scared.

Some horses and ponies bit people. I don't and my little brother Oliver doesn't either. Sometimes ponies bite when they don't like what a human is doing to them, or if they think you have a treat in your hand. Biting is mean and it really hurts to get bit. I know because often horses bite at each other when one is misbehaving. If you are going to give a horse or pony a treat by hand (and we really do like treats!) make sure your hand is as flat as you can make it and that the treat is easy for us to grab with our lips. Our lips are really soft and furry and work perfectly to take treats with. Then we can crunch them with our teeth.

Horses and Ponies don't like it when humans make lots of noise and run around the barn. It is much nicer when humans are quiet and speak to us in nice regular voices, not loud "outside" voices. We have really good hearing and have big ears, (well actually my little brother Oliver has really, really big ears!), and we can hear noises from far, far away. Loud noises like banging and crashing scare us sometimes and we might kick at the noise or try to run away from it.

Horses and Ponies sometimes use kicking and biting to defend themselves from what we think is dangerous or a threat to our safety. I don't want any of you to get bit or kicked so make sure you act safely around us. Next month I think I will tell you about how to lead us around and be safe when you groom us. A good grooming is so nice! I think I am going to go out and roll in something so my humans will spend extra time getting me clean again.

