LOOSE, STRAY AND/OR FERAL ANIMALS AT A FILM LOCATION

1-16*........ When loose, stray or feral animals appear at a film location, production must immediately notify the appropriate animal control agency, area animal shelter or appropriate wildlife departments.

a. At no time shall an actor, crew member, extra or guest remove, take or relocate an animal. The Federal Animal Welfare Act, as well as most local animal agencies, prohibits this practice. Local animal control agencies are best equipped to find the owner or place the animal for adoption.

b. It is production’s responsibility to ensure the safety of natural animals in the filming area and to consult the agency or persons responsible for the removal of wildlife from location sets. Any such animals that remain on the set are subject to American Humane Association’s Guidelines. If native animals are not to remain on the set, they must be carefully removed, relocated, properly housed, cared for and then safely returned to their habitat after filming.

c. When filming in a location where wildlife may appear naturally, film crews shall not interfere with such wildlife in any way and should involve American Humane Association during that filming.

d. Wildlife must not be manipulated for filming purposes. Wildlife in most instances is protected by state and federal laws. Animals may be filmed documentary-style while in their natural habitat, but should not be frightened, corralled, chased or otherwise manipulated for the sake of filming.

e. NEVER TOUCH OR HANDLE WILDLIFE! Wild animals are not trained animal actors and are not familiar with humans. Wild animals are known to carry diseases that can affect other animals as well as humans.

NOTE: Also see Wildlife Guidelines in Chapter 8.

ANIMAL SUBSTITUTES, DEAD ANIMALS, ANIMAL PARTS

1-17 ........ American Humane Association encourages the use of animal substitutes for live animals when scenes call for the depiction of dangerous action. Fake animals, dead animals (or animal parts), animatronics, CGI or other techniques used to simulate live animals shall be documented with photographs and receipts. This applies whether the simulations are provided or acquired through a service (e.g., CGI), a prop rental or purchased as a food product. When appropriate, documentation to American Humane Association should include the name of the technician and the vendor company supplying the product or service, and/or any additional pertinent information.

1-18 ........ If dead animals or animal parts are purchased from or provided by a taxidermist, an animal shelter, a slaughterhouse, a food supplier or another source, American Humane Association must be provided with documentation that demonstrates that the animals were destroyed in the normal course of the source’s operations and were not killed for the production.
1-19*........ When finished filming dead animals or animal parts, production shall immediately dispose of them sanitarly by cremation or appropriate burial. Most states have laws regarding the disposition of dead animals. Production must check with the appropriate agency in the filming area for proper procedures.

1-20........ When handling dead animals or animal parts, care shall be taken to prevent the spread of illness and disease. Personnel shall wash their hands with soap and warm water or an antibacterial agent after handling the dead animals or animal parts.

DURING FILMING

1-21........ American Humane Association recognizes that unique or unforeseen situations may arise that might require on-site judgment differing from these Guidelines. American Humane Association Certified Animal Safety Representative(s)” will make that judgment in the interest of the safety and welfare of the animals.

1-22........ American Humane Association must witness all filming with animals in order to properly document their use.
   a. Production shall provide the American Humane Association Certified Animal Safety Representative(s)” adequate placement during filming in order to witness all animal action.
   b. In certain circumstances, this may include having access to a monitor and/or a production radio or other means of viewing the animal action as it takes place.

1-22.1..... Production shall provide American Humane Association Certified Animal Safety Representative(s)” with two-way radios for the following:
   a. During intense animal action, including stunts and filming of horse racing, rodeo or other intense animal action.
   b. If the film set is so large that American Humane Association Certified Animal Safety Representative(s)” do not have a clear view of the entire area.
   c. When helicopters and insert vehicles are used during filming.
   d. If a large group of animals is being used.

1-23........ When any person hears the words “Unauthorized Shot” from an American Humane Association Certified Animal Safety Representative”, production must stop and fix the problem prior to filming. Otherwise, the production is at risk of being liable and not earning the “No Animals Were Harmed” end-credit certification.

1-24........ As part of standard practice, the production and animal handler shall notify American Humane Association Certified Animal Safety Representative(s)” of any changes in animal action as soon as a change is made.

1-25........ American Humane Association Certified Animal Safety Representative(s)” are the animal’s voice, are present for animal safety, and must be consulted and included in any and all safety meetings. Safety meetings will include all relevant cast and crew.

* Notes a federal, state or local animal welfare statute, code or permit consideration.
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