

## **INSERT VEHICLE SAFETY**

An insert vehicle (often referred to as an “insert car”) is defined as any type of moving apparatus that has wheels and a camera mounted for purposes of filming moving action, including, but not limited to, cars, trucks, four-wheelers, three-wheelers, golf carts, dune buggies, bicycles, etc., and it includes any type of chase vehicle that may be used in filming traveling scenes. The term “insert vehicle” as used in this section shall mean any insert vehicle or chase car. The term “crane” refers to any arm, boom or crane with a camera attached, which moves independently of the vehicle.

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

- American Humane Association considers the use of ANY moving vehicle when animals are present as both intense animal action and a stunt.
- Productions, including the stunt coordinator and insert vehicle crew, shall work collaboratively with the animal handler and American Humane Association to ensure the safety of the animals.
- When filming includes the use of an insert vehicle, it is ultimately the responsibility of the animal handler and American Humane Association to determine if the action is safe for animals.
- American Humane Association shall participate in all prep, training and conditioning of animals that will be participating in filming with any type of insert vehicle, as well as any and all meetings, including safety meetings, and shall be notified of the safety plan once it is developed.
- American Humane Association field personnel are trained and experienced in all aspects of intense animal action and stunts involving animals and shall be considered a part of a production's safety team, ensuring a collaborative effort for the safety and welfare of the animals. (Also see Chapter 7, Stunts.)

American Humane Association must witness all filming with animals in order to properly document their use. Due to the complexity and length of filming with insert vehicles, American Humane Association may require more than one Certified Animal Safety Representative™ to witness all filming. Productions are required to notify American Humane Association prior to filming if they are using insert vehicles, in order for American Humane Association to ensure that ample personnel are on hand for filming. Production shall provide the American Humane Association Certified Animal Safety Representative(s)™ adequate placement during filming in order to witness all animal action. In certain circumstances, this may include having access to a monitor, a clamshell, a production radio and/or other means of viewing the animal action as it takes place. (Also see *Guideline 1-22*.)

- 5-34 ..... ALL animals working where an insert vehicle or chase vehicle is present shall be trained, conditioned and acclimated to working with the size and type of vehicle to be used, to ensure that the animals are comfortable with any noise, movement or other stimuli from the vehicle or crane.
- a. Animals shall be conditioned and acclimated to any special effects, props, costumes and/or any and all environmental or climatic conditions, whether real or man-made, that will occur in the scene. Any props or costumes that may potentially hinder the movement or impair the vision of the animals or animal handler shall be used in rehearsals. Any special effects used shall be inspected and reviewed closely prior to filming. The reaction of an animal to any special effects shall be closely monitored.
  - b. Once animals have been acclimated, any rehearsals must be conducted at slow speeds, gradually building to the desired speed required for filming.
  - c. Rehearsals shall be accomplished at the filming location, at the same time of day or night, and under the same circumstances as actual filming, in an effort to closely duplicate conditions on filming day.

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- d. All persons participating in filming, such as riders, drivers, animal handlers, wranglers, stunt personnel, special effects personnel, vehicle drivers, crane operators, locations personnel, etc., shall participate in rehearsals to ensure that all members of the safety team are informed about all aspects of the scene and have the opportunity to confer with all departments with regard to safety and prevention of possible hazards.
- 5-35 ..... Care must be taken to ensure that animals do not escape the set or location. Production and the animal handler must have a safety plan in place that will prevent the escape of an animal from the set or location and provide for an animal's safe recapture, should an accident or escape occur. (Also see *Guideline 1-36*.)
- 5-36 ..... The use of any vehicle, or any part thereof, to control any directional movement or speed of an animal is prohibited. It is the responsibility of the animal handlers to direct and control the animals.
- 5-37 ..... The vehicles being used shall be inspected daily to ensure that they are mechanically sound and appropriate to perform under the conditions at the filming location.
- a. Areas of special concern during inspection are the tires, braking system, steering system, the weight and stability of the vehicle, and the size and type of vehicle.
  - b. Any crane/camera used on a vehicle must be properly counter-balanced.
  - c. It is important that the vehicle can be seen by the animals, is not overloaded and its weight is evenly distributed.
- 5-38 ..... Drivers and crane operators shall be trained and experienced with the operation of the vehicle they will be using. Drivers and crane operators are considered an important part of the safety team and are important "spotters" during rehearsals and filming.
- 5-39 ..... Terrain, whether natural or man-made, shall be inspected closely for potholes, bumps, uneven surfaces, obstacles such as rocks/gravel, trees, bushes, wet/muddy surfaces, curves, grades, etc.
- a. Consideration shall be given to the type of surface in relation to the speed of the action, whether the terrain is natural or man-made.
  - b. No extreme condition of terrain shall exist that will hinder footing/traction or visibility.
- 5-40 ..... Climatic conditions, whether natural or man-made, shall be closely monitored to ensure that there is no change in footing/traction or visibility during rehearsals and filming. No extreme climatic condition shall exist that will hinder footing/traction or visibility, including bright light, darkness, fog, rain, snow, dust, etc.
- 5-41 ..... The vehicle must:
- a. Maintain a speed — depending on surface and conditions, animals used, environmental and climatic conditions, and any special effects used — which will allow the driver and any crane operator to stay in control and react quickly to a hazard by braking and/or bailing out. Vehicle speed shall not exceed 30mph unless prior approval is given by American Humane Association, or, in a circumstance that would prevent an accident.

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- b. Maintain a safe distance from any animal to allow the driver and/or crane operator to react to any deviation in direction by the animal. American Humane Association recommends that any moving vehicle, and parts thereof (crane, camera, etc.), maintain a minimum distance of 25 feet from any animal. More than 25 feet may be required depending on speed, terrain, and species of animal.
  - c. Have safety areas around it. The set/filming location shall have safety areas to the front, sides and rear of the vehicle at all times, to allow for the vehicle or an animal to bail out and/or perform a safety maneuver should the need arise. Specific attention shall be paid to the beginning and end of the filming areas and to any curves or grades that may be present at the filming location.
  - d. Never track directly behind, head-on or toward an animal. American Humane Association shall use on-site judgment to set safe distances between insert vehicles and animals.
  - e. Never be used to control the speed or direction of an animal.
  - f. Maintain a safe following distance between any animal, any insert vehicle and any chase car, to prevent collision.
- 5-42 ..... Crane operators may position the crane/camera in front, behind or to the side of an animal, provided there is a safe distance between the crane/camera and the animal, and provided the ability exists to quickly perform a safety maneuver. American Humane Association shall use on-site judgment, based on the type of equipment used, animals used, special effects, and environmental and climatic conditions, to determine the distance a crane/camera may be placed from an animal.
- 5-43 ..... Spotters with knowledge of the animals being used shall be utilized.
- a. There shall be an adequate number of spotters as determined by American Humane Association and the animal handler. If the route of the entire action cannot be clearly seen by one person, additional spotters shall be used to ensure that there is clear visibility along the entire route of filming.
  - b. All spotters, including the vehicle driver and any crane operator, shall be equipped with radio communications. A predetermined channel shall be used during all rehearsals and filming. This channel shall be kept open and clear, and people on this channel shall use communication that is simple and directive in nature to ensure quick reaction to any potential hazard.
  - c. It shall be the duty of the spotters to communicate any potential hazard, giving the driver, crane operator, animal handler, etc., as much time as possible to react to a potential hazard.
  - d. When filming scenes that are considered extremely intense, an animal handler who is familiar with the animals being used shall be located inside each vehicle.
- 5-44 ..... The safety, placement and location of any animals being used as pickup horses should be addressed, to prevent a collision with them and the action being filmed.

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- 5-45 ..... The filming area shall be limited to only necessary cast, crew and equipment, to minimize the potential for a collision and to provide sufficient bail-out areas.
- 5-46 ..... When filming with vehicles and animals, **THERE SHALL BE NO CHANGE IN ACTION ONCE REHEARSAL OR FILMING HAS STARTED**, with the exception of reacting to the spotters' communication of any potential hazards. Any change of action, including, but not limited to, speed, length, and distance between vehicles and animals, shall require another safety meeting to ensure that all members of the safety team, and other people participating in the filming, clearly understand and acknowledge the change and see no potential hazards in making the change.