**REMARKER:** It is much more difficult for an animal to descend stairs than to ascend stairs. American Humane Association recommends that off-camera ramps be used to reset an animal.

5-7.2 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.)

5-7.3 When filming in remote locations, the American Humane Association Certified Animal Safety Representative™ should be included in location scouts pertaining to animal action.

### AIRCRAFT SAFETY
*(helicopters, airplanes, ultralights, gliders, hot-air balloons)*


5-8 Animals must be adequately conditioned to work in and around aircraft prior to filming. Should animals become stressed, they shall be removed from the aircraft or filming area immediately.

5-9 Production shall ensure that the pilot is properly licensed and follows all applicable FAA rules and regulations.

5-10 American Humane Association, the animal handler, and the pilot or aerial coordinator shall work together to ensure the safety of the animals. The pilot shall in no way be responsible for operating the camera when animals are being filmed.

5-12 Whether hot or cold loading, small animals such as cats, birds, reptiles and rats must be loaded in cages or crates. Larger animals such as dogs or small livestock must, at a minimum, be leashed or otherwise restrained — and preferably carried — onto and off of the aircraft. At no time should any animal handler approach an aircraft or helicopter without a clear and intentional signal from the pilot.

5-13 All animals, kennels and other equipment must be secured before the aircraft leaves the ground.

5-13.1 Properly trained personnel must be available to assist in clear communication with the aircraft and the opening and securing of occupants, harnesses and doors.

5-14 Care must be taken to protect animals’ eyes when near a running aircraft. When necessary and appropriate, the landing area should be cleared of debris and sprayed with water to keep dust and dirt at a minimum (i.e., rotor wash). (Also see Industry-Wide Labor-Management Safety Committee Safety Bulletin #3, “Helicopters,” paragraph 17.)
5-15........ The following safe distances are required whenever engines and rotors are running (excluding remote-controlled aircraft) to prevent animals from being injured by debris.
   a. Animals and animal handlers shall avoid the rear of an aircraft at all times.
   b. Except when loading, and only at the pilot’s discretion, animals shall never be closer than 50 feet to the front or sides of the aircraft when on the ground.
   c. When an aircraft hovers or steadily flies directly above animals during filming, the aircraft shall not come closer than 100 feet to any animal.
   d. When flying at other angles, the aircraft shall not come closer than 50 feet to any animal.

5-16........ When an aerial sequence is to be performed, all persons involved — including all American Humane Association Certified Animal Safety Representative(s)™ — shall be thoroughly briefed on any potential hazards or safety issues prior to filming. (Also see Industry-Wide Labor-Management Safety Committee Safety Bulletin #3, “Helicopters.”)

5-17........ Once an aircraft is airborne, no changes shall be made that affect the animal action without notifying the animal handler and the American Humane Association Certified Animal Safety Representative™.

**WATER SAFETY**

**NOTE:** Also see Industry-Wide Labor-Management Safety Committee Safety Bulletin #17, “Water Hazards.”

5-19........ Before any animal is placed in or around water, whether for swimming or water-crossing scenes, prior approval must be received from American Humane Association. Safety measures shall be reviewed with American Humane Association and demonstrated at American Humane Association’s request.

5-20........ Care should be taken regarding the native marine life, amphibians and reptiles in and around water.

5-21........ American Humane Association must be consulted prior to filming when animal jumps or falls into water are planned. The distance of the jump or fall will depend on the species of animal being used and the water depth.

5-22........ Water-quality tests are to be performed to ensure the water is free from contaminants.
   a. Slow-moving, stagnant water; putrid odors; and toxins shall be avoided.
   b. Proof of an adequate water-quality test shall be provided to American Humane Association prior to filming.
   c. Each species of animal is different in its tolerance of water contaminants. When in doubt, check with American Humane Association.

5-23........ Supplies should be available to rinse and dry animals after water work.

5-23.1..... Care must be taken so that animals do not become too chilled in swimming or water-crossing scenes. When in doubt about an animal’s temperature limits, consult American Humane Association.
   a. When necessary, production shall provide equipment to adequately heat the water.
   b. Depending on temperature conditions, animals may require warming areas at the location where the water work is performed.
   c. Should wind be present, sufficient windbreaks may be necessary.

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