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.
5-24 ....... American Humane Association recommends that animals be dry before being transported in open trailers or vehicles.

5-25 ....... Swimming and water crossings must be reviewed in a safety meeting prior to filming. American Humane Association must be notified and invited to participate in this meeting. The safety meeting shall include all emergency plans should a water-crossing or swimming scene encounter difficulties.

5-26 ....... Swimming shall be limited to experienced animals, and strict attention must be given to each animal’s logical limits of endurance. A plan for emergency rescue must be in place. If the water is swift, a swift-water animal rescue team should be consulted in the development of an emergency plan and should be on scene for the action.

5-28 ....... Water flow rate and water depth must be computed to ensure the safety of all animals in the water. The force of the water must not be so great as to endanger the animals in the water. As the speed of the water flow doubles, the force of the flow triples.

a. The general rule for determining if the water is safe for animals is to multiply the velocity of the flow (in feet per second) by the water depth (in feet). For safety, the product of that calculation should be less than 10.

b. To compute velocity, a small piece of wood, bark or other floating object can be tossed into the water and used as a floating “speed” reference by counting the number of seconds it takes to travel between a pre-marked 10-foot section of water, and then dividing 10 (feet) by the number of seconds to determine the number of feet per second. Water depth is computed by using a ruler or measuring stick.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Water flows fastest at its surface. The deeper the water, the more force it will have, making footing for animals and conveyances difficult. Production should consult with local park rangers, a water district manager or other expert to compute flow rates and shall provide such documentation to American Humane Association upon request.

5-29 ....... All managers of dams or levees located upstream within a five-mile distance shall be notified of the intended animal action. Proof of communication with any agency upstream that controls the water level must be provided to American Humane Association upon request. Contact numbers for such agencies, including emergency numbers, must be available for communication and provided to American Humane Association during preparation, rehearsals and filming.

5-30 ....... For bodies of water such as streams, rivers, lakes and ponds, the bottoms shall be checked for uneven or otherwise unsafe footing. Where uneven or unsafe underwater footing is found, alternate sites must be used or the area cleared of such debris and unsafe footing before being traversed by animals.

a. This shall include debris on the bottom, including rocks, logs and trash, as well as holes, dips in terrain and floating debris.

b. The entrances and exits of water must be checked for safe entrance and exit. As a general rule, if the animal or apparatus it may be pulling can sink three inches into the bed of the water or on the bank, additional materials must be added to firm up the surfaces.

* Notes a federal, state or local animal welfare statute, code or permit consideration.
5-31 ....... Above-water or underwater bridges or platforms may be used in situations where uneven or unsafe footing is found.
   a. Bridges and platforms must be constructed to support the combined weight of the animals, people and/or equipment (such as wagons) that will be crossing the structures at the same time.
   b. A bridge or platform must be twice as wide as the widest object traversing it (this includes outriders to wagons) and must have a non-slip surface to ensure good footing for animals.
   c. Underwater bridges and platforms must be constructed of wood that is arsenic- and creosote-free, or made of steel.

5-33 ....... Special consideration shall be given to any and all wagons or conveyances connected to an animal, as these objects can and will float.
   a. To prevent floating, a wagon or conveyance must not be submerged up to the box of the wagon. When appropriate, wagons shall be weighed down.
   b. When crossing moving water, there should be only one team of two animals harnessed to a wagon or conveyance.
   c. When in water, quick release snaps or clevises must be used on the traces of animals in harness.
   d. No tie-downs, bearing reins or over-checks shall be used in water crossings or swimming involving animals.

5-33.1 ..... Animal handlers and/or qualified stunt personnel must carry knives — preferably with recessed blades — able to cut through leather so they can cut the hame straps and leather traces and free the harnessed animals, allowing them to swim free in an intense water situation, if necessary.

5-33.2 ..... American Humane Association requires that animal handlers designate a spotter or spotters placed along the route of the animals’ water crossing. These individuals should relay instructions on how to manage an intense water situation.
   a. An adequate number of spotters must be placed upstream with radios to warn of floating debris or objects in the water, such as logs or loose equipment.
   b. An adequate number of spotters with experience in swift-water animal rescue must be positioned downstream with radios and appropriate rescue equipment.

**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.