



# WALKING WITH LIONS

## SAFETY MEMO WHEN WORKING WITH EXOTIC ANIMALS

- The Head Trainer must have time to give a safety talk to the entire cast and crew prior to the shoot/performance.
- The entire crew and cast must be notified by the AD and be prepared before an animal is brought out on set/stage.
- Call the animals on set/stage when every department is ready to rehearse, shoot or perform.
- The set must be closed. When an animal is out of the cage or on the set/stage, only the necessary crew should be on the set/stage and they must stand together in a group.
- All other crewmembers and cast must be in their dressing rooms/trailers or vehicles.
- All work on the set/stage needs to stop.
- Do not approach any trainer while they are out with an animal.
- No children (other than cast members) or other animals should be on the set/stage.
- Never feed, tease, or annoy the animals when on set or in our vehicles.
- No food near the set/stage where the animals will be working.
- Animals can easily be distracted and so it is essential that the set/stage is as quiet as possible. Do not move equipment, lights, or props around the animals.
- No personal photos to be taken until after the rehearsal/shoot/performance and then only at the discretion of the Head Trainer.
- When the animals are on set/stage, please hold all work and movement, other than what is being performed - Do not make loud noises - Do not work above or between the eye line of the animals or trainers.
- Do not run a tape measure or clapboard in front of the animal without the permission of the Head Trainer.
- Tail slate whenever possible.
- Wait until the animals are back in the trucks before resuming your work.
- Do not run or crouch near the animals.
- No crew/cast members are allowed to approach, touch, or pet ANY animal without the consent & presence of a trainer.
- Should an animal wander from the trainers, it is important not to panic & to stay together in a group.

Remember at all times that even though they are professionally trained animals, they are still wild and only through mutual respect and understanding are we able to work together. So, use your common sense. We appreciate your cooperation in following these safety guidelines so that we will have a happy and safe set/stage for the animals and everyone involved with the production.

Thank you!

Brian McMillan  
Walking with Lions