

## **Horses and Dogs**

Most horse lovers also love dogs. So we need to make the most of this relationship while keeping safe. Here are some tips:

- 1. Introduce your dog to your horse in a low-key environment. Pick up the dog and present it to the horse. It's better to do this while the dog is a puppy so he/she won't be aggressive toward the horse.
- 2. If your horse is scared of dogs, be very calm and assure both dog and horse that it's a good thing to be friends. Don't rush. It may take months before they are comfortable. If one does not accept the other, don't force the issue.
- 3. Do not ride a horse in the presence of a dog that you are not familiar with or bring a dog around a horse that you're not familiar with or a horse that does not like dogs.
- **4.** Be responsible teach your dog respect for livestock, to stay away from the horse's heels, and that it's a privilege your dog must earn to join you and your horse while riding.
- 5. Don't put your pooch in a situation where he/she can get hurt by an aggressive horse.

Dr. Fernanda C. Camargo and her friend Skye.

Read Dr. Camargo's horseback riding safety blog by following the link at saddleupSAFELY.org.

