# A screen shot of a computer Description automatically generatedhorse handling in stockyards safety talk

Horses can be a tremendous help when it comes to livestock management when handled properly and carefully. They are also large and powerful animals that can cause injury given the wrong circumstances.

*Check for all appropriate gear before riding:*

* Wear appropriate protective clothing such as boots, long pants
* All equipment such as saddles, bridles, bits etc. should be inspected for and kept in good condition
* All equipment should fit the horse comfortably
* Ensure that stirrups are fitted to the rider properly
* Saddle cloths should be checked for foreign material such as burrs

*General riding safe practices:*

* Riders should assess all riding areas and pay close attention to gate cap height; only riding under those with enough clearance
* Extra caution and time should be taken any time wet and slippery conditions are present
* Green horses should not be allowed in the work area
* Running horses should be avoided wherever possible
* Avoid rope use unless necessary with no other way to recover
* A horse should only be ridden if in healthy condition and with proper equipment
* Cell phone use should be prohibited while horseback to eliminate distraction
* Riders should only adjust equipment on the ground and remain alert and in a place of control while mounted

Each rider and horse should be evaluated for skill and control prior to working in the yard.