Pets and Hunting Season

Horses/llamas/Mules

When trail riding

It's best to avoid trail riding during hunting season, especially during the opening weekend. If you feel safe enough in your area to hit the trails, take these steps to help keep you safe.

- Wear bright clothing and avoid earth tones; white or any color a hunter might mistake for a wild animal
- Wear a blaze orange vest or jacket while riding
- Avoid riding on public lands during hunting season
- Braid some colorful ribbon (or strips of Vetrap) into your horse's tail
- Put vivid bandaging or Vetrap on the bottom of your horse's legs - you can even wrap pieces onto the bridle where it won't interfere with your horse's vision

In the pasture

- Keep your horse in, if possible, during times of poor visibility like early in the morning or evening
- If you can, house horses near your home during hunting season
- Paint fence posts in back pastures a bright orange, so hunters will be extra careful
- Tie strips of brightly colored Vetrap to fence lines
- If state law requires it, post "No Hunting Allowed" signs if you think hunters may unintentionally wander onto your property
- If the weather is cool and your horse needs a blanket, make sure it is brightly colored
- Put an orange hunting sock or a colorful tail bag on your horse's tail
- If your horse wears a halter when pastured, make sure it is vividly colored
- Foals, small ponies, and minis can wear human hunting vests

Dogs

- Brightly colored collars/bandanas on your dog when they are outside.
- Put bells on your pets' collars.
- Keep them secure in your yard during opening day and during the early mornings and evenings.
- When walking your dog stay on well traveled roads and paths and try an orange baseball cap or vest.
- Good idea to keep your pet leashed while walking them during hunting season.
- Just in case the worst does happen, have the vet's numbers preprogrammed in your phone and carry a small pet first aid kit with you.

Best Defenses

Situational awareness

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Bright Colors