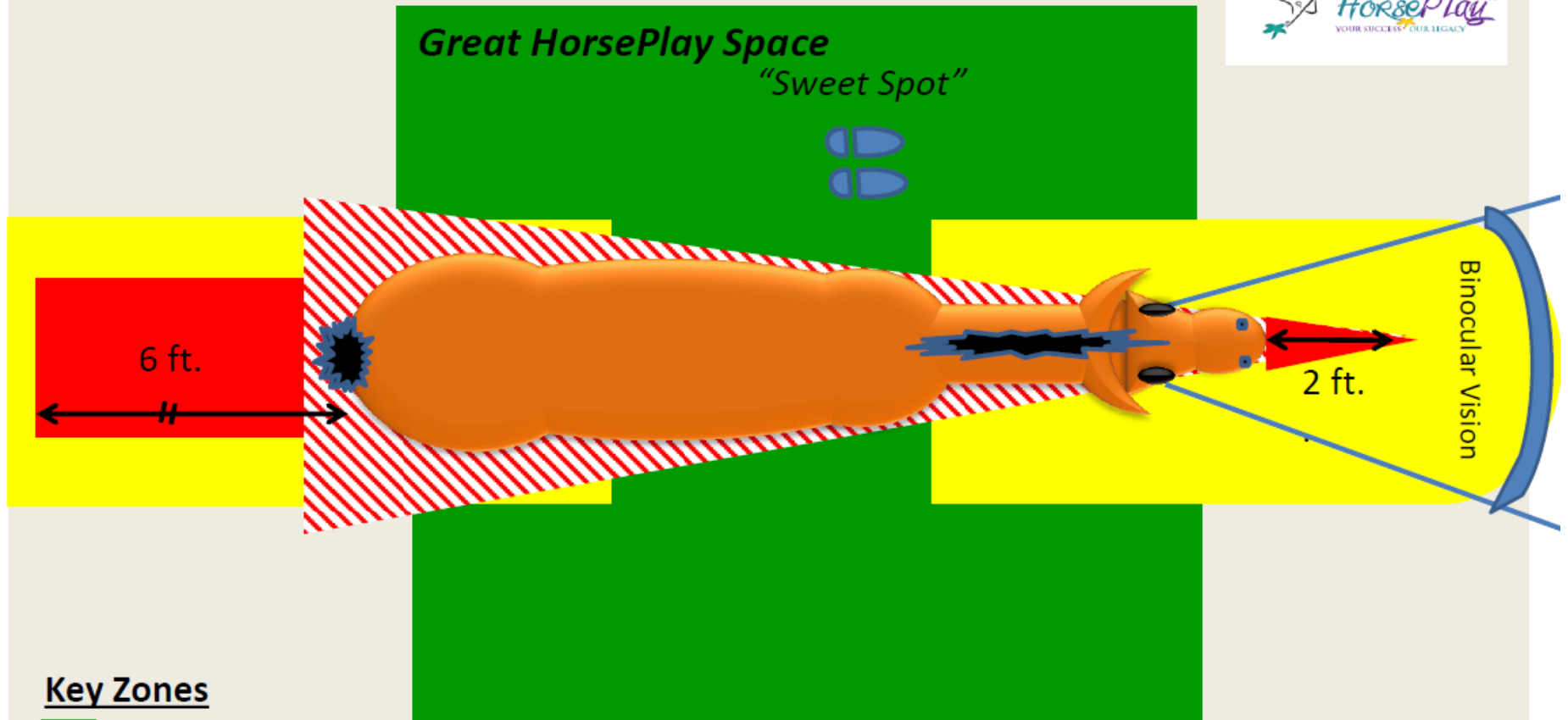


# Horse Safety Zones – Overhead View



## Key Zones

- Happy Horse-Human Contact Zone
- Blind Spot - also directly under head, neck, and body
- OK with Relationship/Touch Contact
- Respectful Caution

- Binocular Vision  
Note – Rest of field is Monocular Vision  
Left and Right Eyes see separately!
- Human Partner  
"Sweet Spot"

## Horse Safety & Communication

### Ears

- Upright - Alert//On Guard (Focused toward...)
- Rotating - Scanning Environment, Listening to two things at once!
- Backward - Looking for signals from behind (rider, other)
- Pinned Back – Upset, Irritated, Angry (Get out of way!)

### Eyes

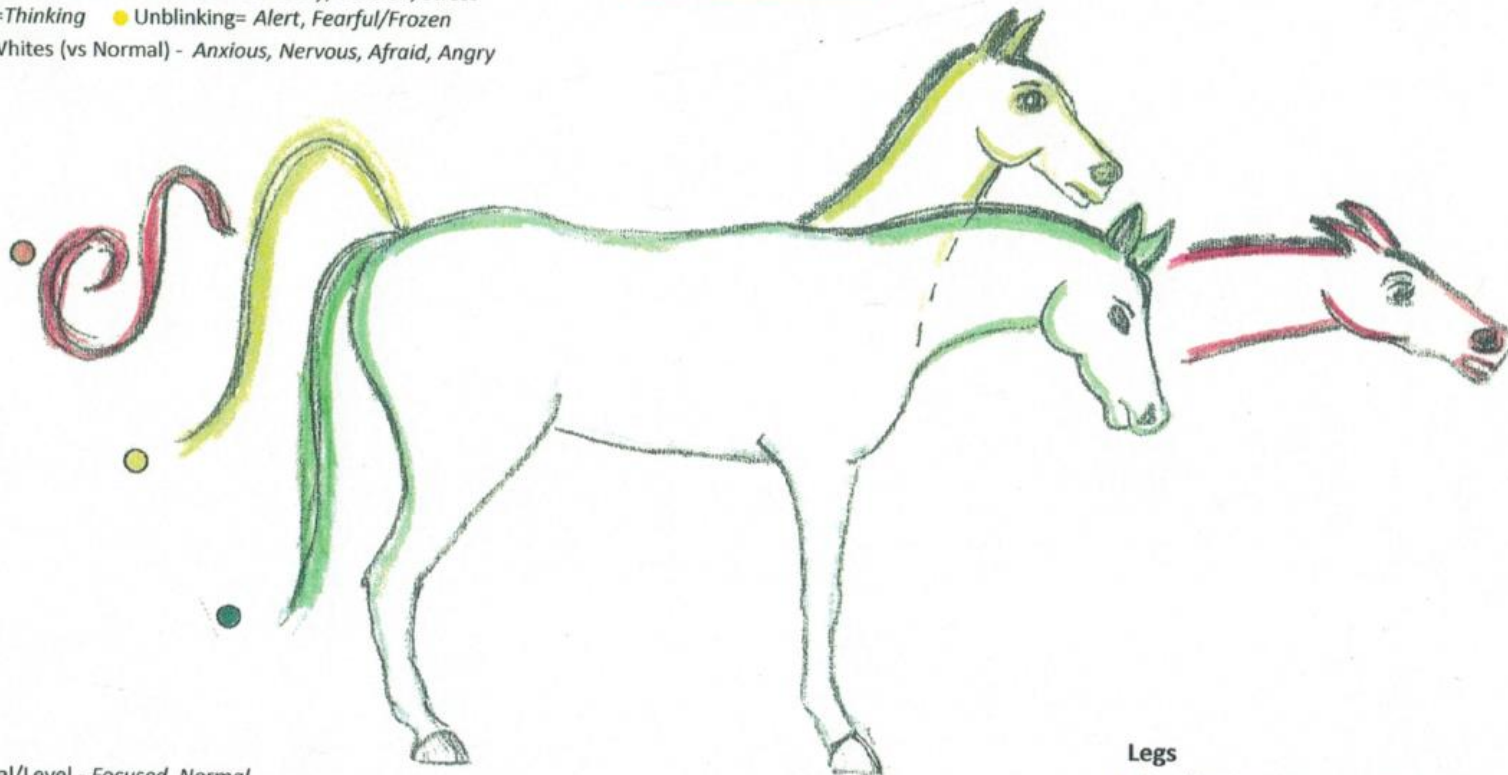
- Soft Eyes (Gentle looking) - Relaxed, in learning/teaching mode
- Hard Eyes (Tense looking) - Anxious, Angry, Resistant (Watch Out!)
- Half- Closed - Relaxed, Tired, Sleepy/Sleeping
- Wrinkled: Attentive or Worried – Curiosity, Tension, Stress
- Blinking=Thinking ● Unblinking= Alert, Fearful/Frozen
- 'More' Whites (vs Normal) - Anxious, Nervous, Afraid, Angry

## Horse Signals

- Watch Out!
- On Alert - Caution
- Relaxed - OK

### Muzzle, Lips

- Muzzle Moving - Exploring, Grooming, Testing, You hit a good spot!
- Loose, Drooping - Relaxed, At Ease, Bored?
- Licking - Thinking/Relating, Tension Release
- Chewing - Thinking/Relating, Relaxed, Acknowledgment, Stress Release
- Yawning - Stress Release
- Tight Mouth - Anxiety and Fear
- Wrinkled - Annoyance, Disgust
- Biting Air or Object - Submission (Young horses – Don't hurt me!)
- Nuzzling - Bonding, Relaxation, Affection, Looking for treats



### Tail

- Neutral/Level - Focused, Normal
- Straight Up or Out (High Tailing) - Attentive, Excited, Feeling my oats!
- Straight Down - Apprehensive, Submissive
- Tucked Tight (Clamped Down) - Fearful
- Loosely Curled - Calm and Relaxed
- Swishing - Annoyed (Insects or other irritant) or Rhythmic swish for balance
- Wringing or Twirling - Frustration, Irritation, Aggression (Watch Out!)

### Legs

- Standing Square - Attentive, Ready
- Hind Hoof Resting - Relaxed
- Hind Hoof Raised - Defensive (Warning!)
- Pawing - Foraging, Checking Out, Frustrated, Ready to roll
- Stamping - Mild Irritation (Flies?)
- Dancing Around - Excited, Nervous, Frightened
- Striking Out - Threatening, Angry, Fighting

