Vision & Hearing
How Horses See

- Horses can see the horizon and ground at the same time
- Horses are “near sighted” – they don’t see distance clearly
- Each eye predominantly feeds into one side of the brain
- Shadows on the ground can look like holes
A horse's field of view

- has a greater field of view
- has less depth perception
- is easily blinded by bright light but is better able to see in dim light
- is less able to distinguish details and contrast of colours
- can see longer distances
- has some colour vision but less than a human

Horses cannot see directly behind or directly below their nose (Blind Zone).

Equine Guelph Horse Behaviour & Safety Workshop
Ear Directions

- Pointed **forward** for interest
- Twisted **back** to listen
- **Sideways** when relaxed or sick
- Pinned **back** to show displeasure or aggression
- Ears work independently of each other so may point in different directions
Ears Give You Clues

Their large ears can twist almost all the way around
The ears will tell you the direction of the horse’s attention
Who’s Listening Here?

The horse at the back is listening to the horse in the front, who is listening to both the other horse and the camera.
The Nose Knows
End of Section