

ALWAYS WEAR LIGHT OR REFLECTIVE CLOTHING WHILE RIDING OR WALKING AT NIGHT

EQUESTRIAN RULES OF THE ROAD - For Drivers

Give Equestrians the Right-of-Way. Your vehicle isn't a living animal with a mind of its own. Decide to help keep the horse and rider safe.

Nobody Owns the Road. Try a little courtesy and patience, and lower your blood pressure at the same time.

Slow Down and Be Aware of the hazard of animals and riders, both on the street and off.

Use Caution When Approaching Horses on streets or trails. It takes only moments for a horse to get spooked and bolt and for a terrible accident to happen.

Don't Honk Your Horn. Horses are animals that are preyed on and so have an instinctual drive to escape frightening situations and our children and neighbors can get hurt in the process.

Respect the Right-of-Way of Others by not violating traffic laws such as failing to stop at a stop sign or traffic light, speeding or making unsafe lane changes or illegal turns.

Use Caution When Passing Horses. IT'S THE LAW.

Caution in Passing Animals VC 21759 The driver of any vehicle approaching any horse drawn vehicle, any ridden animal or any livestock shall exercise proper control of his vehicle and shall reduce speed or stop as may appear necessary or as may be signaled or otherwise requested by any person driving, riding or in charge of the animal or livestock in order to avoid frightening and to safeguard the animal or livestock and to insure the safety of any person driving or riding the animal or in charge of the livestock. Pass Horses From Behind With Care. Allow the rider extra room and drive slowly around to give the horse a chance to see you. If there's not enough room in your lane to pass, wait until there is room in the other lane or when the road widens before you slowly proceed past.

If A Horse Is Acting Up - Stop for a moment to allow the rider to get the horse under control, then proceed slowly and be prepared to stop if the horse starts to act up again.

If People Are Loading A Horse - Give plenty of room in case an inexperienced horse suddenly backs out of the trailer - or better yet, wait until the horse is loaded onto the trailer.

Do Not "Send A Message" by driving close to a horse because you feel the rider is hogging the road or being rude. Be the better person and have patience.

EQUESTRIAN RULES OF THE ROAD - For Riders

Nobody Owns the Road. Be courteous and keep to the right when vehicles are present.

Ride Defensively. Assume that not all drivers know what to do and that not all drivers will do the right thing.

Share the Road. When you see or hear a vehicle approaching, be polite and move to the right to give the driver room to pass.

When Riding Two or More Abreast, you may be as wide as a vehicle, but you're not a vehicle. Return to single file as quickly as possible to allow drivers to pass. Remember, a little courtesy goes a long way.

At Intersections, let the faster, heavier vehicle go first, even if you do have the right-of-way. After all, what's your hurry?

Do Not Be a Traffic Controller. Do not ride in the middle of the road or lane just to slow down traffic.

It's Your Job to Protect Your Horse. When being passed, if necessary, stop your horse until the vehicle goes by. Horse vs. Vehicle = Horse Loses.

You are Responsible for Your Own Safety. Ride with traffic, be visible, alert and communicate your intentions, and always wear a helmet.

When Loading or Unloading a Horse, do so on a side street and out of traffic, when possible. If your horse has trouble, signal any approaching car to go around or stop, or wait until the vehicle passes. Do not assume that the driver knows your situation and what to do.

When Crossing the Street or Using an Equestrian Crossing, you have the duty of using due care for your own safety. No horseback rider shall leave a curb or other place of safety and proceed suddenly into the path of a vehicle which is close enough to constitute an immediate hazard. VC Section 21805 Equestrian Crossings.

Use the Trails When Possible. Remember that it's all about being safe and enjoying the ride.