

Trail Riding Etiquette and Safety

Etiquette and safety are close relatives that share a proportional relationship. In many cases a lack of one creates a breach of the other. Poor etiquette typically leads to unsafe activities, while excellent etiquette paves the road for safe riding experiences. Please follow these guidelines and be aware of the riders near you.

- Collect & keep your muck in the trailer and dispose of it at home and level any uneven areas before you leave
- Tie only to your trailer, or designated hitch post
- Ride at the level/speed of the least experienced rider
- Ask the group (and get consent) before increasing speed as well as be aware of anyone falling behind the group as this increases anxiety and negative behavior in the lagging horses. Do not leave riders behind on their own.
- Communicate concerns clearly-Safety is everyone responsibility please speak up
- Keep 10 feet or more between horses, pay attention to the body language of the horses around you. Swishing tails, pinned ears and a tense body are signs you are too close, be aware of surroundings (You should be able to see the hind feet of the horse in front of you is a good rule of thumb)
- Leader should ask if all riders are ready before starting ride and after each time the ride has stopped
- Wait for all horses to drink before leaving a watering area
- At a difficult spot on the trail (log step-over, steep downhill etc) moving off slowly giving each horse time to get through without rushing
- Wait for riders when they have dismounted (open/close gaits, equipment checks, potty stops,dropped items, etc)
- Do not trot or run up behind or alongside other riders
- If your horse is known to kick tie a red ribbon in its tail
- Keep your horse moving while on the trail
- When meeting others on the trail be friendly and talk to them pleasantly
- When passing other riders leave as much room as possible
- Follow the leave no trace ethics (more information at www.Int.org.)

DOG RULES FOR HDH CAMPOUTS

1. Dogs allowed at campouts must be on leash at all times
2. No dogs allowed on trails. If you do not have proper containment for your dog while riding (trailer, RV, LQ, etc), please do not bring your dog. Dogs are not allowed to be left in a tent or tied outside due to possibility of getting loose and lost.
3. All campground rules regarding dogs must be followed
4. If your dog has separation anxiety and barks and howls while you are gone, please do not bring to a campout. It will be happier left at home. If your dog barks and howls while you are on a ride, it will not be allowed back.
5. Please pick up after your dog
6. No aggressive dogs allowed
7. No dogs allowed in eating/food area
8. If you do not adhere to these club rules, you will lose the privilege of bringing your dog to a HDH campout.