

## Advice for **Riding on the Road**

- · Always wear a correctly fitting riding hat.
- Ensure your tack fits correctly and is in good condition.
- Do not ride on the road without a saddle and bridle.
- Do not take your horse on the road if you are not in full control at all times.
- If your horse is nervous or prone to shying go out with another rider who has a more experienced, calmer horse.
- Always tell someone where you are going and approximately what time you expect to be back.
- Kit yourself and your horse out with highly visible fluorescent clothing. This allows traffic to see you up to three seconds sooner.
- If possible have your address and contact details on your tack, i.e. key fob attached to the saddle ring. This will ensure that if your horse gets loose for whatever reason you or a nominated contact can be advised as soon as possible of your horse's whereabouts. There are dedicated services which also provide this for you, e.g. BEIDS British Equestrian Identification Service, www.beids.co.uk.
- Carry details of a contact in case of an accident, plus any medical conditions or Medicines you are on which would help the emergency services.



- Ride on the left hand side of the road going with the flow of the traffic.
- Try to avoid riding on the road in poor light or poor weather, especially in foggy, icy and slippery conditions. Some horses also do not like extremely windy weather and will spook more.
- Obey the rules of the road at all times read the latest version of the Highway Code.
- Use appropriate correct hand signals to tell other road users your intentions, i.e. turning, or if you need them to slow down or stop.
- Plan ahead of these manoeuvres, ensure you are in full control of your horse, that it is safe to do the hand signal and if so then proceed with care.

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- · Be polite and patient to all other road users.
- Acknowledge if someone has shown consideration to you and your horse with a smile and raised hand in thanks.
- It is against the law to ride on footpaths and pavements, but you can ride on some grass verges unless there is a local byelaw to prevent this.
- · Always be aware of what is going on around you.
- Be alert and on the lookout for potential hazards.
- Do not use your mobile phone when mounted, unless in the case of an emergency and it is safe to do so.
- · Never use earphones, iPod players etc.
- Go to the British Horse Society website and learn about the BHS Road Safety Test www.bhs.org.uk.
- If you experience an accident or injury on the road report it to the Police, where relevant.

The British Horse Society also has an excellent website where they are compiling statistics on accidents/incidents concerning horse owners/riders. Please report any problems you have on **www.horseaccidents.org.uk**.

Please help them to help you!

Finally, be safe and enjoy your ride.



With special thanks to the British Horse Society.

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