

# EQUESTRIAN TRAIL SAFETY

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HOW ALL TRAIL USERS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO BE SAFE AND HAVE FUN



## HORSES ON THE TRAIL

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### HORSES HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY!

Horses are the largest, most powerful and least-predictable user of the trail system.

(this guide helps all trail users to be safe)

(does this by knowing OAT)

Horses always get the right of way from all other trail users. If you're sharing the trail with equestrians, give them as wide a berth as possible and make sure not to make abrupt movements or loud noises as you pass. Talk calmly when approaching so you do not startle the animal or the rider. If you're on a narrow trail and a horse is passing, step off the trail until they pass by. You do not want to be in the path of a spooked horse!

## TRAIL COURTESY

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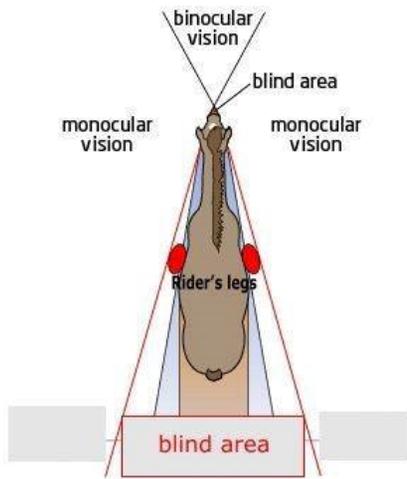
For walkers, joggers, and cyclists:

Remember OAT: **O**bserve, **A**lert, **T**ravel

- **OBSERVE** the horse's body language
- **ALERT** the rider know you are approaching in advance. Be loud enough to alert, but do not yell
- **TRAVEL** carefully and slowly, giving at least 3+ ft distance between you and the horse.

**Rider courtesy: Be responsible!**

- Keep right on the trails
- Warn trail users when passing and pass slowly
- No dangerous speeds on crowded trails
- **COMMUNICATE** with other trail users. If your horse has any behavior issues, alert trail users in advance.



## PREVENTING TROUBLE

Knowing basic horse body language can prevent accidents for both riders and trail users.

## READING HORSE BEHAVIOR

- EARS: If a horse's ears are flat against their head, take caution
- EYES: If a horse has a "wild look" they may be likely to spook
- TAIL: a tail held high indicates excitement

## What to do when a horse is "acting up"

If a horse is bucking, rearing, or prancing: TAKE CAUTION and DO NOT approach! Wait until the rider has regained control and STAY CLEAR.



## HORSE EMERGENCIES

### IF YOU FIND AN INJURED RIDER

- Make sure area is safe
- Check if they're responsive
- If unresponsive, call 911

### IF YOU FIND A RUNAWAY HORSE

- Do not try to stop a running horse! Do not approach an unfamiliar animal
- Look for rider nearby
- Alert the forest preserve at 630-933-7200 ex. 7240

### SAFETY FOR YOUR HORSE

- Always have info tags on your horse: it could save their life!
- Invest



## SUMMARY, MORE ABOUT TROD

Courtesy

Prevention

Emergencies

Be safe and enjoy the trails!

### What is T.R.O.D.?

Trail Riders Of DuPage (T.R.O.D.) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded to assist and educate horseback riders and other trail users in the promotion and preservation of multi-purpose trails.

Founded in 1992, T.R.O.D. was formed to help preserve the trails in DuPage County.