

# Meeting A Horse On the Trail



## USE THE THREE C's

1. **courtesy**
2. **communication**
3. **common sense**

- Make your presence known from a distance by calmly addressing the rider.
- Please pass slowly on the left after the rider has acknowledged your presence.
- If you are motorized, we request that you stop and shut off your engine as a courtesy. Please greet the rider and wait until horse and rider have moved off a safe distance before continuing.
- If you are unsure of what to do in any situation concerning a horse, please ask the rider before taking any action.
- We all share the trails, so let's work together in harmony to ensure safe and enjoyable trails.

Courtesy of the Ontario Trail Riders Association  
[www.otra.ca](http://www.otra.ca)



## Best Practices for Horses on the Trails

1. You and your horse should have suitable riding attire - hunter orange from waist up all year, boots with a heel, helmet, well fitting saddle and good tack.
2. Ride a suitable horse – size, conditioning and training matter.
3. Carry a first aid kit, cell phone, GPS/compass and map on you NOT the horse.
4. Never lead off until all riders are mounted.
5. Stay on the marked trails and obey the signs. Know where you are on the trail in case of an emergency.
6. Walk on the right of the trail or road. Never canter or gallop.
7. Leave two horse lengths between you and the other horses even when you have stopped.
8. When crossing a road do so all together.
9. Use the buddy system; be responsible for the rider in front and behind you.
10. If riding alone, tell someone where you have gone and when you will return.
11. Use the three C's – Courtesy, Communication and Common Sense.
12. Do not litter on the trail or campsite. Put manure and hay in designated areas. Leave only hoof prints behind.
13. No dogs on the trail or alone in the campsite.
14. No alcohol or smoking on the trail.
15. Water your horse from the shore, and do not cross or wade unknown waters.

The OEF recommends that riders purchase headgear that has been approved by the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI)/American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the British Standards Institution (BSI) and that have been properly fitted and includes a safety harness secured closely under the chin. The harness should be secured during all equestrian activities. Hairstyles should allow the helmet to fit to the head snugly with a minimal side to side or front to back movement on the head. Ponytails and other hairstyles should be worn on the outside of the helmet so that the elastic band or other soft restraint for the hair is below the hard edge of the helmet shell and not between the head and the helmet as to not cause injury to wearer, if impacted.