



Riding Etiquette

As HTH do not accept beginner riders we treat our riders with the general assumption that you know your pommel from their cantle. We want everyone to have a good time and not feel like they are back at pony camp but we are also aware that you will be riding unfamiliar horses in an unfamiliar country so we do have a few guidelines for all our riders to follow.

As well trained and behaved as our horses are, they are still living animals which means they can at times be unpredictable. Try not to get so wrapped in your own horse as to not notice what's going on around you. By using your common sense and being aware of your surroundings potential accidents can easily be avoided.

THE BASICS

- 1/ Always check your girth before mounting and tighten if necessary.
- 2/ Always wear your hard hat when riding.
- 3/ No smoking around the horses please.
- 4/ Don't get too close to the horse in front and don't think it rude to tell someone if they are getting too close to yours (As a general rule of thumb keep 1 horse length from the horse in front, 2 lengths when going up steep hills, 3 lengths when going down them).
- 5/ Announce your intentions to pass so neither the horse or rider in front are taken by surprise i.e. "passing on your right".
- 6/ If turning around check over your shoulder first.
- 7/ Look behind you before halting suddenly.
- 8/ Always listen to & follow the lead riders instructions.
- 9/ No overtaking the lead rider unless instructed to do so.
- 10/ Lead rider will announce things such as gait transitions, stops, wildlife, hazards etc. Please pass these back along the group.
- 11/ If the lead rider sees a hazard or wants riders to slow he will raise his right hand in a fist - please pass this back.
- 12/ In an emergency, the lead / sweep rider may shout 'HALT' or 'HOLD HARD'. All riders must then halt immediately.
- 13/ If a rider were to fall off, all riders must dismount in a calm and sensible manner.

So that's it and don't forget to relax - if you're relaxed so too will be your horse. Everyone's here for the same reason - to have a great ride and enjoy some quality time in the saddle. If you do have any concerns about anything at all, no matter how small a quibble please do let a member of our staff know and we will do our best to remedy the situation as quickly and effectively as possible.