

It's the Law

Many people are not familiar with the law when it comes to horses and motorized vehicles. Whether you are a resident or a visitor, please familiarize yourself with these important facts. And always think, "SAFETY FIRST and SHARE THE ROAD".

Title 23: Motor Vehicle

§ 1014 Persons riding animals

A person riding an animal or driving an animal-drawn vehicle upon a road is granted all the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the 'driver of a motor vehicle by this chapter except those provisions of this chapter which by their very nature an have no application. (Added 1971, No 258 (Adj. Sess.) § 3, eff. March1, 1973).

§1127. Control in presence of horses and cattle.

(a). Whenever upon a public highway and approaching a horse or other draft animal upon which a person is riding, the operator of a motor vehicle shall operate the vehicle in such a manner as to exercise every reasonable precaution to prevent the frightening of such horse or animal and to insure the safety and protection of the person riding or driving.

(b) The operator of a motor vehicle shall yield to any cattle, sheep, or goats which are being herded on or across a highway. (Added 1971, No. 258 (Adj. Sess.), § 3, eff. March 1, 1973; amended 1989, No. 55.)

Did you know? Research Shows

- ◆ More people are injured pleasure riding than when competing.
- ◆ Most injuries occur in the Spring
- ◆ The most common causes of death and serious injury involving riders are head injuries. Please wear a helmet.
- ◆ Approximately 2/3 of all injuries are caused by the horses' behavior. Spooking being the most common.

There is no such thing as a bomb proof horse.

BE SAFE

AND RIDE SMART

SHARE THE ROAD

**RIDE SAFE AND SMART
SHARE THE ROAD**



The Vermont Horse Council

www.vthorsecouncil.org

Every horse owner would rather be riding off the main roads but often have to travel busy, public roads to get to the forest trails and pastures. Common sense and courtesy from the horse rider and the motorist can keep everyone safe.

Trail Safety

- ◆ Ride with permission and consideration for the land owner.
- ◆ Rider's should always voice their intentions when changing gaits or passing fellow riders.
- ◆ When riding in groups, never exceed the ability of the least experienced rider.
- ◆ Stay off trails when conditions may cause damage (i.e. mud, new plantings, etc.).
- ◆ Always tie your horse to an object that is strong & secure. Never wrap or tie the lead rope to yourself.
- ◆ Supervise any horse tied to a tree. Stripped bark, by a hungry or bored horse, can damage or kill a tree.

FOR MOTORISTS:

- ◆ Slow down when approaching a horse and rider to *25-30 mph or less*.
- ◆ *Be prepared to stop*. Stop immediately if the rider is having trouble controlling the horse or if the rider is hand signaling .
- ◆ **NEVER BLOW YOUR HORN**. It can cause the horse(s) to startle and/or bolt.
- ◆ Pass with a wide berth, at least 6 feet or one lane width from the horse.
- ◆ **Drive a minimum of 15 feet** behind a cart or wagon. Give them the complete lane if you are passing.
- ◆ Never cut quickly back in front of a horse when returning to your lane.

FOR HORSE RIDERS:

- ◆ Always wear an ASTM-SEI approved helmet and heeled footwear.
- ◆ Obey all traffic signs and regulations.
- ◆ Put nervous or novice horses between quiet, more experienced horses when riding in a group.
- ◆ Ride on the shoulder of the road and stay alert. Ride on the right side of the road.
- ◆ In a group, ride single file, at least one horse length apart on the right side of the road.
- ◆ To communicate to motorists and bicyclists that they should approach with caution, extend your left hand out with palm down.
- ◆ Be careful of bottles and broken glass on the shoulder of the road.
- ◆ Be respectful