

ROAD SAFETY RACK CARDS

AVAILABLE THROUGH HORSE COUNCIL BC

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Caution! Horses on the Road!



This vehicle hit a horse.

Photo courtesy of car-accidents.com

Horses are large and powerful animals that often weigh over 1000 lbs.

A collision with one poses considerable risk to the motor vehicle and its occupants, as well as to the horse and rider.

With the flight instincts typical of prey animals like deer, horses can be frightened easily by sudden sounds or unfamiliar objects and may leap to one side or suddenly run away. **Be prepared to stop quickly if necessary.**

If riders are children, please use extra caution.



PASS SLOW AND WIDE

Here's what the Motor Vehicle Act has to say:

"a person riding an animal or driving an animal on a highway has the rights and is subject to the duties of the driver of a vehicle..." Even though horses have a right to remain in the driving lane, most riders will try to stay on the shoulder as a courtesy to drivers. Please return the courtesy by passing slow and wide.

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For Motorists

Loud or sudden noises can frighten horses. You can help by turning down a loud stereo. Yelling and honking may startle a horse and cause it to jump sideways, endangering you as well as the horse and rider. Pass wide! Pass slow! Please don't brake or accelerate suddenly, as it can cause noise and may throw up gravel. Never throw things out of your window near horses, and if driving a particularly noisy vehicle or pulling a trailer, please exercise extra caution.

Please be aware that horses are animals and not machines; they will react! When you are well past the horse, accelerate gradually and be on your way.

For Motorcyclists

Slow down and pass wide! Please don't rev your engines.

For Cyclists and Pedestrians

Speak up and be seen! Let them know you're a human and not a mountain lion! Give verbal warning when approaching a horse from behind and be prepared to stop if a rider asks. If approaching from the front, stay where the horse can see you. For your safety and theirs, please pass single file and to the outside. Never pass between two horses.

For Dog Owners

A horse may perceive a loose or running dog as a predator or a threat. If the horse spooks or bolts, it can injure itself or its rider. In addition, a horse can seriously injure or kill a dog with a lightning fast kick or strike. For your dog's sake, as well as your own protection, if you see a horse approaching, please ensure that your dog is on a leash.

www.hcbc.ca

1-800-345-8055

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