

WHEELS YIELD TO HEELS

How to share trails with horses



Photo by Back Country Horsemen of BC

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As prey animals, horses can be easily startled. If you meet a horse on the trails, here's what you can do as an ATVer to keep everyone safe:



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ATVS

- When approaching a horse from in front, move to the side of the trail and turn off your ATV. Say hello so the horse knows you are a human.

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ATVS

- If you're on a hill, move to the low side of the trail. Most predators will try to attack from above so the horse will feel less threatened if you are lower down.

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- If the horse is frightened, take off your helmet and get off your ATV to show that you're a person and not a predator.

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ATVS

- When approaching a horse from behind stop your ATV and say hello. The rider may want to turn to face you to show the horse you're not a threat.

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ATVS

- When safe, pass the horse slow and wide, ideally giving 3 meters of space. Horses can kick for self defence. Giving extra space will keep you safe in case the horse kicks.

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EQUESTRIANS

- When meeting other trail users steady your mount and exchange greetings.
- Remember that a well-trained horse is essential for safe riding.

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LEARN THE SIGNS OF A SCARED HORSE

- Eyes wide
- Nostrils flared – may make a loud blowing sound from their nostrils
- Ears rapidly move back and forward
- Head is elevated and neck is braced