

HAIL-A-HORSE

How to share trails with horses



Photo by Kim Stallknecht Photography

HAIL-A-HORSE

How to share trails with horses



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



HAIL-A-HORSE

How to share trails with horses



DOG WALKER

- When approaching a horse from in front, move to the side of the trail remaining in sight. Say hello so the horse doesn't mistake you as a predator.

HAIL-A-HORSE

How to share trails with horses



DOG WALKER

- **Keep your dog on short leash and in control. If your dog was to approach the horse, they may mistake the dog as a threat even if your dog is just trying to say hi.**

HAIL-A-HORSE

How to share trails with horses



DOG WALKER

- 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.

HAIL-A-HORSE

How to share trails with horses



DOG WALKER

- If your dog is reactive have them sit and wait until the horse passes. Use treats to keep your dogs attention on you and away from the horse.

HAIL-A-HORSE

How to share trails with horses



DOG WALKER

- 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.

HAIL-A-HORSE

How to share trails with horses



EQUESTRIANS

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

HAIL-A-HORSE

How to share trails with horses



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