

HAIL-A-HORSE

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 a hiker to keep everyone safe:



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HIKER

- **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.**

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HIKER

- 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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HIKER

- **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