



The Riding Club would like to remind all riding club members about Riding and Road Safety at this time of year.

This is an information update but if you only read the next sentence, you will benefit:

When riding out on the public highway a hi-viz tabard or jacket will give any driver three additional seconds in which to see you. This may not sound a lot, but if you consider that driving at 30 mph, a driver will travel the length of a full size dressage arena in that time.

OTHER Interesting Facts

- There are over three million horse riders in the UK and a large proportion regularly ride on the road.
- The British Horse Society believes there are 3,000 horse-related traffic accidents every year.
- Stopping distances for an average car are as follows;

Typical Stopping Distances



**Please take the time to read the below from the RoSPA
(The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents)**

Horse Riding

There are around three million horse riders in Great Britain, many of whom ride on the road. Although they prefer not to do so, riders often have no choice because they need to reach to bridleways and other off road facilities. Horse riders have a right to use the road, and both riders and motorists are responsible for each other's safety.

Training

The British Horse Society provides road safety training for horse riders and administers a road safety test, which around 7,000 riders take each year. All riders should undertake road safety training and the BHS test. For more details please go to

http://www.bhs.org.uk/Training_and_Qualifications/Riding_and_Road_Safety.aspx



Supervision

Young, inexperienced riders should always be accompanied by adult, experienced riders when riding on or near the road.

Safety Equipment and Clothing

The law only requires children to wear helmets when riding on the road, however, it is strongly recommended that all riders of horses, or other equine animals, on the road wear a helmet.

All riders should wear high visibility (fluorescent and reflective) garments when riding on the road. Fluorescent and reflective ankle bands and stirrup lights are particularly effective in attracting the attention of motorists.

The Highway Code (Rule 36) advises riders not to ride on the road at night or in poor visibility. Riders who must use the road in these conditions should ensure that the horse has reflective bands above the fetlock joints and carry a light, which shows white to the front and red to the rear.

Riding on the Road

Before taking a horse onto the road, riders should ensure that they can control the horse, and that the saddle and other equipment fits it well and is in good condition. Horses that are inexperienced in riding on the road, or are nervous of traffic, should be ridden by experienced riders and be accompanied by other, less nervous horses.

Riders should follow the Highway Code and obey all road signs, road markings and traffic lights. Riding two abreast can be useful, especially if one of the riders or horses is inexperienced, but riders should return to single file where the road narrows and when approaching bends.

All Riders should be courteous to other road users, and thank drivers who have slowed down for them.

If you are interested in doing the Riding & Road Safety Test – please let Tara Phillis know;

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