



# Horses and Traffic

## A Safety Guide for Drivers in Rural Areas



**Did you know:**  
In the province of Ontario a horse and rider or horse-drawn vehicle has the right of way on most roads?

**Did you know:**  
Frightening a horse on the road is in fact a ticketable offence?

Per the Highway Traffic Act: Part X, section 167

### Pass Slow and Wide!

Horses have minds of their own, like small children, and as flight animals can often behave in ways that do not seem logical to humans. Please slow down, especially on dirt or gravel roads where debris might be flung at riders and horses, causing not only injury, but also unexpected behaviour from the horses.



### Fact:

Riders may be encountered on roadways during all seasons. Be especially careful during winter months where our options are limited if the horse does something unpredictable.

If you do come across a frightened horse, please stop until the horse is back under control.

### Hints and Tips:

Riders are very aware of the traffic around them. Please do not honk your horn, flap things out your windows, shout, or anything else that may frighten the horses. If you need to get our attention, please talk to us in a calm voice.



**Hint for Cyclists:** Your vehicle, unlike a car, sneaks up on us silently. Please talk as you approach and pass - it lets the horses and us know you are there, and protects you from the danger of the flying hooves of a startled horse.

Following the above guidelines allows us all to enjoy the roads, and helps to keep everyone safe.

Below is the exact text from the highway traffic act:

"Approaching ridden or driven horses, etc.

167. Every person having the control or charge of a motor vehicle or motor assisted bicycle on a highway, when approaching a horse or other animal that is drawing a vehicle or being driven, led or ridden, shall operate, manage and control the motor vehicle or motor assisted bicycle so as to exercise every reasonable precaution to prevent the frightening of the horse or other animal and to ensure the safety and protection of any person driving, leading or riding upon the horse or other animal or being in any vehicle drawn by the horse or other animal. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 167"