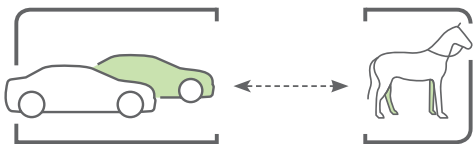


# Road Safety Advice for Motorists

## Be alert and slow down when passing horses

Each year there are a number of serious crashes involving horses and other vehicles. This information has been produced to help motorists avoid these crashes and to ensure the safety of themselves, their passengers, and horse riders.



## Common type of crashes

Most crashes with horses involve:

- High speed drivers on rural roads
- Rocks thrown up by passing vehicles and hitting the horse
- The vehicle hitting the horse from behind or side-swiping a horse as the vehicle overtakes
- The horse being spooked (frightened) or bolting
- The horse straying from a paddock or enclosure

## How you can minimise risk

- Slow down when passing or approaching horses so your vehicle does not startle the horse, and allow plenty of room when overtaking, when it is safe to do so
- Take extra care on bends, crests and on narrow roads, particularly in areas close to horse riding schools, trail ride businesses and rural areas

- Watch out for horses being led or ridden on the road - slow down and leave as much space as possible to allow for unexpected movements by the horse
- Don't use your horn around horses - it may startle even the most placid horse
- Allow for inexperienced horse riders
- Don't throw rubbish out of your vehicle - dangerous roadsides force riders onto the roads
- Overtake horses only as you would overtake another vehicle - when there is nothing coming from the other direction
- If a rider signals you to slow or stop, please try and do so safely. It is better to be a few minutes late than to have a collision
- Slow down as you are approaching a horse. Horses can be unpredictable and seemingly innocent roadside objects can cause a horse to spook
- Please give horses and riders as much space as is safely possible - a 500kg horse can do a lot of damage to a vehicle
- Please be aware that while most horse riders attempt to stay off the road, the conditions of the road edges are sometimes hazardous. To the vehicle driver, the road sides may appear flat and safe - so why do horse riders ride on the road? In reality, roadsides can expose the horse and rider to many dangers. Nature strips and roadside verges can be littered with broken glass and bottles. Plastic bags, disposable nappies and beer bottles are all potential "horse-eaters" to the horse. Often these seemingly innocent objects can be the cause of a horse shying or bolting, resulting in a crash
- Sometimes horse riders must use the road because the shoulder of the road is too soft or too rocky to ride on, or even because of dogs or other animals which may be out of the vehicle driver's view
- Remember that you can be charged for driving a vehicle without reasonable consideration for other road users. So always stay alert and slow down when approaching or passing horses and riders.

Community  
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