

FOR EQUESTRIANS...

- Observe all traffic regulations. Stop at stop signs, signal turns when motorists are following behind you.
- Ride or drive at a walk on the right shoulder, single file *with* the flow of traffic. (When *leading* your horse, walk *against* traffic, like a pedestrian.)
- Riding on roads at night is risky. If you must do so, riders and carriage drivers are required to display a light, visible at least 200 feet to the front and rear, between a half-hour after sunset and a half-hour before sunrise.
- Brightly colored clothing is helpful any time of the day.
- Horses and carriages are not allowed on limited access highways.
- When a car approaches on a dirt or other narrow road, stop to let the car pass.
- Do not intentionally impede the flow of traffic.
- If you want traffic to slow down, wave your hand palm down.
- Acknowledge courteous drivers.



Please Drive Safely
and help Treasure
our Magnificent
Horses!



♦ The horses say, *thank you!*

**Burlington County
Sheriff's Department**
Community Services Unit
Tel. 609-265-3788



Jean E. Stanfield, Sheriff
Bryan H. Norcross, Undersheriff

ROAD SAFETY
In New Jersey for
MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS
and **EQUESTRIANS**



Provided by the
**Burlington County
Sheriff's Department**
Jean E. Stanfield, Sheriff

For hundreds of years, horses were a common sight on roads, as they provided the primary source of transportation. Today, horses, riders, and carriage drivers are usually seen on roads only when they need to traverse from one trail to another. They do have a right to be there (unless it is a highway) and it is important that automobile drivers know how to share the road with equestrians. Here in Burlington County, we share an abundance of suburban and rural areas among our 40 municipalities. In our county setting, horses and other livestock are not an uncommon sight to motorists traveling through many of our communities.

Horses are skittish animals. A horse's first impulse is to jump or run away from any object perceived to be dangerous. While the sight or sound of a vehicle is not something their instincts tell them to fear, horses are more likely to be afraid of a dog or a sinister-looking lawn ornament than a car. They may jump into a car's path to avoid the scary object they spot on the side of the road.

It is the responsibility of the motor vehicle driver to slow down when passing horses and riders, or when necessary, to stop to be sure the rider has the horse under control before passing. You can be held liable if your careless driving causes an accident involving a horse or carriage. Just a few seconds patience on your part can help to prevent a tragedy from happening.

FOR MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS

- Slow down when approaching a horse and rider or horse and carriage



- Pass with a wide berth, at least 6 to 8 feet from the horse



- Do not pass on hills or curves.
- Resist blowing your horn!
- When approaching a horse from behind, let oncoming traffic pass the horse first.
- Drive a minimum of 20 feet behind a horse and cart when following them on the road. Wait until the oncoming lane is completely clear before passing (with a wide berth 6-8 feet).
- When returning to the traffic lane, do not cut quickly in front of the horse; give plenty of room.
- Stop and wait if the rider is having difficulty controlling the horse.

The Law in New Jersey

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Statute 39:4-72—Slowing, Stopping on signal from driver, rider of a horse; violations, fine

- When approaching or passing a person riding or driving a horse, a person driving a motor vehicle *shall* reduce the vehicle's speed to a rate not exceeding 25 miles an hour and proceed with caution. At the request of or upon a signal by putting up the hand or otherwise, from a person riding or driving a horse in the opposite direction, the motor vehicle driver shall cause the motor vehicle to stop and remain stationary so long as may be necessary to allow the horse to pass.
- The administrator shall include in the New Jersey Driver's Manual information explaining the requirements of subsection a. of this section and cautioning licensees on the need to exercise caution when operating a motor vehicle near horses.
- A person who violates subsection a. of this section shall be subject to a fine of \$150.00

Amended 2004, c.163.s.1.