

# Road Sense for Riders

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

There are over 2.4 million riders in Great Britain

There are over 26 million licensed vehicles on the road today

There are approximately 8 horse related accidents every day

On average 5 riders are killed each year

Over 50% of all road accidents involving horses happen on minor roads

The BHS run Riding and Road Safety training and tests for all riders.



The Road Sense for Riders leaflet contains a checklist of points to ensure that you and your horse are safer on the today's busy roads. It outlines the basics of the BHS Riding and Road Safety Test and is free from the Safety Department if you send an SAE.

This leaflet contains a checklist of points to ensure that you and your horse are safer on today's busy roads. It also explains how to take the British Horse Society Riding and Road Safety Test

## WHEN RIDING ON THE ROADS MAKE SURE YOU...

**DO** thank motorists who are courteous to you

**DO** read and learn from the BHS Riding and Road Safety Manual. This can be ordered from the [BHS Bookshop](#).

**DO** take the BHS Riding and Road Safety Test.

**DO** read the appropriate sections of the Highway Code.

**DO** keep away from busy main roads as much as possible

**DO** ride on the left hand side of the road

**DO** give clear and accurate signals, and remember other road users

**DO** acknowledge and return courtesy, a smile and a nod are enough if your hands are full

**DO** lead on the left of the road; with the horse on your left whether mounted or dismounted. Keep yourself between the led horse and the traffic

**DO** take extra care when crossing farmland. Obtain a copy of the BHS free leaflet on 'Riding and Driving Responsibly'. Obtain permission from the landowner if you wish to cross private land.

**DO** wear protective headgear to the current approved standard, BS EN1384, PAS015 or ASTM F1163. Make sure that it is correctly fitted and secured at all times.

**DO** check your tack before you set off

**DO** make sure you can be seen by drivers at all times of the day and at all times of year regardless of the weather conditions. Wear fluorescent/ reflective accessories at all times, ie at least leg bands on your horse and a tabard for yourself. The BHS Bookshop provides a good range.

**DO** leave details of your intended route and estimated time of return with a responsible person.

And last but not least, Join the British Horse Society. As a full member you enjoy FREE Third Party Legal Liability Insurance as well as many other benefits.

## TO BE SAFER ON THE ROADS REMEMBER...

**DO NOT** ride in failing light or darkness. If you have to, always wear reflective gear, and fit legbands above the fetlock joints of your horse

**DO NOT** ride out on roads known to be dangerous from snow or ice

**DO NOT** attempt to accustom a green horse to the road without a steady horse present

**DO NOT** take a mounted group of more than eight horses on the road. If there are more of you, form into groups, each with a competent leader and shepherd

**DO NOT** ride more than two abreast on the road

**DO NOT** panic if your horse slips and falls. Stay calm and let him find his feet. Check he is uninjured and remount on non-slippery ground

**DO NOT** ride on the road in foggy conditions or after dark

**DO NOT** trot on slippery surfaces

**DO NOT** trickle over a major crossing. Always cross in a group

*The British Horse Society's Safety department are always on hand to answer your queries on any aspect of Riding and Road Safety.*

The British Horse Society works tirelessly to improve the equestrian world for all riders and horses. As well as its good work in the fields of competition, training and examinations, the Society is also involved in promoting riding and road safety, equine welfare and opening up more off-road riding routes. To find out how you can support this valuable work please write to the Information Officer, British Horse Society, Stoneleigh Deer Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2XZ