



Horses & Ponies Etcetera!



Level 1 Issue 5: Road Safety

A series of educational fact sheets by the Equine Therapy Center, with Monty and Timothy.

In this issue we are looking at how to ride safely on the roads.



A horse is considered a vehicle, so like cars and bicycles, we ride on the left side of the road. Riders also have to obey road markings and signs just like a car.

White lines show the middle of the road, and vehicles drive to the left of the lines. Horses should also stay to the left of the white lines, so they are going the same way as other traffic.

If there are no white lines on a road, it often means the road is not wide enough for two cars to be side by side.



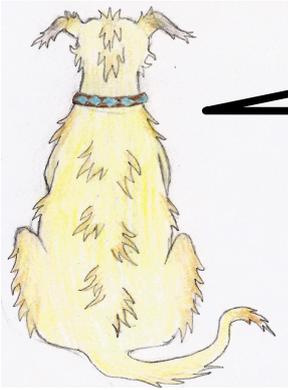
This photo shows a junction, a rider should always stop at a junction to check the road is clear of cars before stepping out.

As a horse has no indicators, when turning off of one road onto another, the rider must hold out an arm to show which way they are headed.



Roads all have a speed limit. These are shown on signs at the side of the road, as shown on the right. Obviously our horses will usually be walking at about 5mph, so no where near the speed limit! But it is useful to pay attention to these signs as they give an indication of how fast the traffic will be going, and therefore whether the road is safe to ride on.

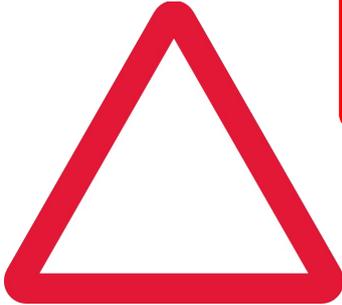




This sign warns drivers that there may be horse riders on the road.



Red triangle signs mean a warning, the triangle contains a picture that shows the driver what to be aware of.



Lets see if we can draw lines to match these signs to what they are warning about...



Roundabout ahead



Danger of rockfall onto the road



Workmen on the road



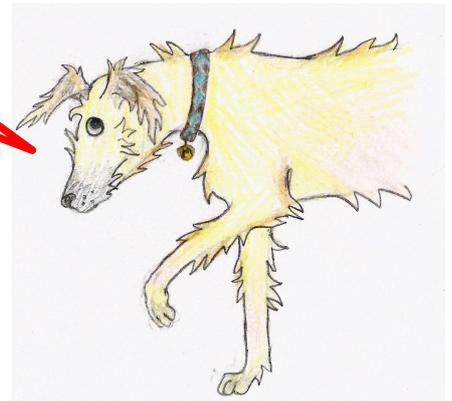
Danger of a slippery road surface



When riding out on the roads it is good to wear high visibility and reflective clothing, so that drivers can see us more easily.



It is better not to ride when it is dark or when there is poor visibility, (eg: fog or heavy snowfall), as this makes it harder for drivers to see horses and riders.



Monty's Tips for Riding on the Roads-

- Keep to the left of the road.
- Make sure your horse is good in traffic, and used to all kinds of vehicles.
- You should normally ride in single file, especially around corners and on busy roads.
- Always check for cars and other vehicles when turning off or onto a road, and use clear arm signals to tell drivers where you are going.
- Always remember to thank drivers that pull over or slow down for you and your horse.

Grooming-

1. What item is used to clean a horses hooves?
2. What is a plastic curry comb used for?
3. Why is it important to groom a horse?
4. Do horses groom each other? What does it show?

Hmmm, how much can you remember about the grooming kit?

