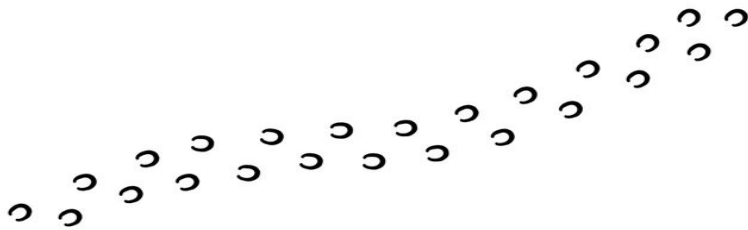


# How to Safely Encounter Horses on Trails



## Slow Down or Stop

- If hiking, move to the side of the trail and slow down or stop.
- If biking, slow down and move to the side of the trail or stop. If the horse is spooking, or acting up, stop and dismount your bike.

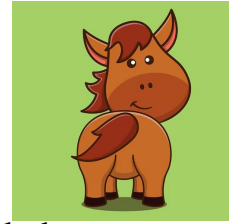
## Communicate with the Rider

- Say hello. This helps the horse recognize that you are human and not a threat.
- Ask the rider what you should do. They may ask you to continue walking or biking down the trail, or they could ask you to remain where you are while they ride past you.

## Maintain Control of Dogs



- Ensure that you have control of dogs when approaching, passing, or being around horses. This can be accomplished by keeping them on a leash. This is an important step in keeping all members on the trail safe, as a horse could be startled by a dog.



## Approaching a Horse from Behind

- Since horses cannot see directly behind them, approaching a horse from behind can be dangerous. A horse may kick or spook if startled, so communication with the rider is of utmost importance. Make the rider aware of your presence by calmly saying hello.

## What NOT to do

- Do not stand silently or stand behind something. This may cause the horse to perceive you as a threat or a predator.
- Do not go quickly past the horse. This will most likely startle the horse, which could put you, the rider, and the horse in danger.
- Do not do anything that could startle the horse. For example, avoid shouting or making your brakes squeal.
- Do not fully block your hearing. Blocking your hearing by using earbuds or headphones could limit your ability to recognize a horse on the trail and communicate with the rider.

