



Trail Riding Safety by Lisa Friedenberg

I was asked to write an article on Trail Ride Safety involving stallions, as I trail ride on my 1997 Palomino Tovero Paint Stallion, BSR Master Lock. I rode him on the family day ride at Ministik. Most safety tips are the same for stallions, mares and geldings. All horses should be well mannered on a group trail ride.

Hopefully, all aspects of horse safety are second nature to the horseperson. Rather than repeat all the rules of horse safety, the following comments refer to precautions unique to trail riding. Following these guidelines ensures that everyone enjoys the ride!

1. Your horse should have enough experience for the type, size and length of ride.
2. Be sure your horse is properly conditioned for the type of ride you are going on. An over-fatigued horse could lead to accidents.
3. Be sure your equipment fits your horse, is in good repair, and properly adjusted.
4. Do not tie your horse too close to a strange horse. Tie it out of kicking range. *As a stallion owner, it would help me out if your horse is properly tied so it doesn't get loose!*
5. Please be aware that there will be riders with varied levels of horse and trail experience and horses with different levels of training. Do not let your horse crowd into other horses.
6. Trotting or galloping up on or past other riders may upset other mounts and will not be tolerated. Be thoughtful. Let it be known that you would like to pass, wait for a wide spot in the trail, and pass quietly.
7. If you must stop on the trail, give those behind you some advance notice, then pull over to the side of the trail. It's a good idea to have a buddy stay with you as your horse is more apt to remain calm.
8. If your mount has even the slightest tendency to kick, please put a red ribbon on the tail to make others aware. Pay attention to horses around you—they'll tell you what they are thinking.
9. Do not bring dogs on the trail, unless everyone on the ride agrees. Extend courtesies to all you meet in the mountains as you would like to receive from them.
10. Watch out for low hanging branches, large rocks, boggy areas and other natural hazards.
11. Obey all orders, directions and suggestions of the person in charge of a group trail ride and always stay with the other riders. Do not explore another trail on your own.
12. Educate new members and guests about trail safety.

ABOVE ALL...USE COMMON SENSE AND HORSE SENSE

***Pictured Above:** Master and Lisa trying to talk a big warmblood mare into crossing the river at Yaha Tinda.*

***Pictured Right:** Master and Lisa taking in the view.*

