

# What Bikers Need to Know around Horses & Riders

## Trail Etiquette to Keep us all Safe

Believe it or not, bikers and hikers must yield to horse riders on many Colorado trails. This rule isn't some snooty, "*we were here first*" deal. It's just common sense. It's much easier for hikers and bikers to yield to horses than the other way around.

Horses are prey animals. Bikes approach like predators, quickly and silently. Even the best-trained horses can spook, bolt, or jump sideways when they encounter bikers or hikers with big packs. The results can be harmful to all. Think of a moose-vehicle collision. Now, take away the vehicle.

To avoid collisions and flared tempers, take these simple steps:

- **Announce yourself:** Once you see horse and rider, let them know you're approaching as soon as you can. No yelling necessary, just a friendly "*Hey, how are you?*" will do.
- **Slow down or Stop:** Ask the rider if she'd like you to stop and step off or if slowing down and passing is okay.
- **Keep talking:** Being friendly and communicative isn't just nice manners, it lets the horse know you are a person, not a predator.
- **Anticipate around corners:** Avoid tearing around blind angles. There could be large, dangerous animals around the bend! If you can't slow down, make noise to alert possible trail riders.
- **Take the low road:** If you're on a grade and are trying to move past a horse rider, take the downhill side.

*Have fun sharing the trail!*



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