

FOR EQUESTRIANS...

- Observe all traffic regulations. Stop at stop signs. Signal turns when there are motorists behind you.
- Ride or drive at a walk on the right shoulder, single file *with* the flow of traffic. (When *leading* your horse, walk *against* traffic, like a pedestrian.)
- Riding on roads at night is risky. But if you do so, riders and carriage drivers should display a light, visible at least 200 feet to the front and rear, between a half-hour after sunset and a half-hour before sunrise.
- Brightly-colored clothing is helpful any time of day.
- When a car approaches on a dirt or other narrow road, stop to let the car pass.
- Do not intentionally impede the flow of traffic.
- If you want traffic to slow down, wave your hand palm down.
- Acknowledge ☺ courteous drivers.



Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90 §14 states:

Every person operating a motor vehicle shall bring the vehicle and the motor propelling it immediately to a stop when approaching a cow, horse or other draft animal being led, ridden or driven, if such animal appears to be frightened and if the person in charge thereof shall signal to do so; and, if traveling in the opposite direction to that in which such animal is proceeding, said vehicle shall remain stationary so long as may be reasonable to allow such animal to pass; or, if traveling in the same direction, the person operating shall use reasonable caution thereafter passing such animal.



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www.lanesborough-ma.gov

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ROAD SAFETY FOR MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS AND EQUESTRIANS



**Town of
Lanesborough**

For hundreds of years horses were a common sight on roads, as they provided the primary source of transportation. Today, horses, riders, and carriage drivers are usually seen on roads only when they need to traverse from one trail to another. They do have a right to be there (unless it is a highway) and it is important that automobile drivers know how to share the road with equestrians.

Horses are skittish animals. A horse's first impulse is to jump or run away from any object perceived to be dangerous. While the sight or sound of a vehicle is not something their instincts tell them to fear — horses are more likely to be afraid of a dog or a sinister-looking lawn ornament than a car — they may jump into a car's path to avoid the scary object they spot on the side of the road.

It is the responsibility of the motor vehicle operator to slow down when passing horses and riders, or when necessary, to stop to be sure the rider has the horse under control before passing. You can be held liable if your careless driving causes an accident involving a horse or carriage. Just a few seconds patience on your part can help to prevent a tragedy from happening.



FOR MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS ...

- Slow down when approaching a horse and rider or horse and carriage.



- When approaching a horse from behind, let oncoming traffic pass the horse first.

- Maintain a reasonable distance behind a horse and cart when following on the road. Wait until the oncoming lane is completely clear before passing (with a wide berth).

- When returning to the traffic lane, do not cut quickly in front of the horse; give plenty of room.

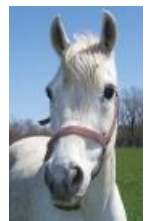
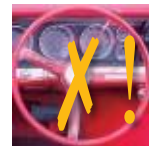
- Pass with a wide berth from the horse.



- Stop and wait if the rider is having a difficult time controlling the horse.

- Do not pass on hills or curves.

- Resist blowing your horn!



- The horses say, *thank you!*