

FYLDE & DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE PONY CLUB



Important notes about riding on the road.

The road is a dangerous place to ride. Cars go very fast and drivers do not always understand that ponies and horses can be afraid of noisy engines, farm vehicles and lorries or buses.

When we ride on the road, we have to follow rules and be as safe as possible. Riders have a right to use the roads, but must try at all times to **be alert and look out for danger** and what other road-users are doing. This means no chatting or daydreaming in case there is a hazard and you don't see it in time to take action. If your horse or pony is not good in traffic, you should avoid riding on the road **if at all possible**, and **NEVER** go out without a steady, traffic-proof companion and an adult.

Always ride on the left hand side of the road, keeping well tucked in to the side and *moving in the same direction* as the traffic. If we have to lead a pony or horse, either from the ground on another horse, we must be between the pony being led and the traffic.

We must make sure other road users can see us easily. Always put plenty of bright safety-wear on yourself and your pony.

When not to ride on the road

If your pony is very 'fresh' (i.e. full of energy) and/or any of the following:

NEVER set off for a ride on the road if it is going to get **dark** before you get home or it is **foggy**. Drivers will not be able to see you ahead and a nasty accident is much more likely to happen. They do not expect to see riders out on horses in the fog or after dark.

If the roads are icy, or your pony's shoes are loose or worn thin. Your pony will be at risk of slipping and falling and cars can skid unexpectedly on icy roads.

When it is windy or rainy, horses and ponies can be more spooky than usual, so **extra** care must be taken if you really have to use the road.

It can be very busy at certain times of the day – when people are going to and from work. They might be in a hurry and not very pleased to see ponies and horses in their way. Try not to ride during rush hour!

Things which can frighten even a quiet pony are:

- Big or noisy vehicles and rattling trailers with flapping tarpaulins on
- People in gardens or behind hedges using lawn mowers and hedge cutters
- Children on roller-blades or scooters or kicking footballs
- Bags of rubbish at the side of the road
- Plastic bags stuck in the hedge
- Newspaper or litter blowing across the road
- Dogs loose in the garden, barking at you

You must not ride on the pavement – it is against the law.

Trotting around a corner is dangerous – roads can be extra slippery on corners.

Saying 'Thank you' to kind and helpful drivers is always polite. **A big smile and a nod** of your head is plenty to encourage them to slow down for other riders.