



VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION Inc

INFORMATION SHEET

RIDE SAFETY FOR NON-RIDERS & VOLUNTEERS

It is recommended that there be in attendance, at a VERA Endurance Ride, a doctor, ambulance officer, SES personnel or other qualified medical/emergency person. If this is not possible, local ambulance services should be informed of the proposed ride and be provided with details/maps of the ride course and base camp.

When you are at a ride it is best to be over-cautious when near the horses. Most horses are very well behaved but some are not due to the close proximity of other horses.

Be aware that a horse can bite, kick with its back legs, strike out with its front legs, pull back, swing around, stand on your toes and more.

LISTED BELOW ARE A FEW POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. Before approaching a horse, consult with the owner as it may not like strangers.
2. If you are holding or handling a horse, hold it on a short rein, keep it clear of other horses in case it kicks out at them and constantly watch the horse. When someone gets too close, ask them to move away.
3. When walking near horses, never walk behind them, or between them, and keep out of 'striking' distance.
4. When walking around the endurance ride base camp:
 - a. Keep away from the vetting area where horses are preparing to present to the vet, or any other area where horses are gathered together, such as the start/finish line.
 - b. Keep clear of horses yards as some are electrified.
5. Keep off the course, particularly near the finish line, as some riders will be travelling very fast and may not see you. Watch from the side of the track or some other vantage point.
6. Do not make any loud sudden noises near the vetting area, as it may agitate a horse whilst it is being vetted.
7. Horses with red ribbons in their tails indicate a horse that is more likely to kick. Do not assume that where a horse does not display a red ribbon it will not kick. Horses with blue ribbons in their tails indicate that the horse is a stallion. Extra care should be taken around stallions as they are most likely to display behaviour that can cause injury.

PLEASE HAND THIS SHEET TO ANY VOLUNTEER HELPERS AT THE RIDE, OR DISPLAY IN A PROMINENT PLACE TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE FOREWARDED ABOUT POSSIBLE DANGERS PRESENTED AT A RIDE.