

Top 10 Things You Need To Know To Ride To Hounds

Submitted by the Toronto & North York Hunt



Photo by Catherine Davey, photosbycat.ca

So you want to bring your horse and ride to hounds with the Toronto and North York Hunt. Now what? Here are the top 10 things you need to know!

1. Obtain permission by contacting a Master of Foxhounds at info@TNYH.Horse or 416-998-6078 (talk/text).
2. Arrive early and be mounted 15 minutes before the appointed starting time.
3. Approved ASTM helmets are obligatory, as are boots with a heel; safety vests are optional but recommended.
4. Inexperienced horses and horses new to the field must have a green ribbon in their tail and be kept at the back. A horse that may kick should have a red ribbon in its tail and be kept strictly at the very back of the field.
5. Allow one horse length between yourself and the horse ahead of you. However, it is very important that you keep up with horse ahead of you and do not lag behind.
6. If you are uncomfortable with the pace, you may ask the Field Master's permission to move to a slower field or to be excused. Return to the trailers, preferably with a companion.
7. Keep to the edges of roadways and ride in single file so as not to block traffic. Ride on the edges of fields unless instructed otherwise. Tiptoe past livestock so as not to disturb. Gates must be left closed if found closed, or open if found open.
8. Do not pass the Field Master. The tradition of never passing the Master (that is, keeping behind him/her) serves to keep the field from interfering with hounds.
9. Speak in a subdued voice and limit conversation in the field.
10. Bring water for your horse.
11. Have fun!

Okay, so that was 11 things but the last point is the most important!

Got a burning question about riding to hounds? Send an email to info@TNYH.Horse and we'll provide answers in the upcoming editions of *WHOA!*

Guests and new members of all ages – from eight to 80 – are always welcome! Remember, you don't have to jump to ride to hounds. There is usually a group for people who would rather walk or trot, and smart Western attire and tack is perfectly acceptable. Toronto and North York Hunt rides every Wednesday and Saturday from mid-April to the end of May, and from mid-August to the end of November. Visit www.TNYH.Horse or follow us on Facebook. Tally ho! 🐾

Watch For The Percheron Promo Team At Events This Summer

Submitted by the Ontario Percheron Horse Association

The promotion of the Percheron breed is the primary objective of the Ontario Percheron Horse Association (OPHA). To achieve the objective, the OPHA offers programs to promote the Percheron horse in its many disciplines.

To breeders, it offers the All-Ontario Percheron Futurity. For the performance hitch person, there is the Ontario High Point Four Horse Hitch and the High Point Cart. The OPHA recognizes the importance of youth and for those 18 and under there is the OPHA Junior Program. People who plow with their Percherons are encouraged to take part in the International Plowing Match where the OPHA presents an award to the top plowperson using Percheron horses. The Learn to Harness, Hitch and Drive Clinic, offered yearly on the May 24 long weekend, is always a success and an enjoyable learning experience for those who want to learn hands-on how to harness, hitch and drive Percherons. The OPHA also participates in the OEF's annual Toronto Horse Day to show the beautiful Percheron to the public.

This year's OPHA Ambassador is Taylor Lipsett, who helps her family exhibit their Percherons at many of the fall fairs throughout Ontario. Watch for her to be assisting with the ribbon presentations at fairs where Percheron classes are offered.

The "promo team" attends fairs in Eastern, Central and Southwestern Ontario offering Percheron logo apparel for all enthusiasts. Make sure you watch for the promo tent and check out what they have to offer.

The Percheron Post, the OPHA's bi-annual newsletter, is posted on the OEF website. Make sure you check it for more complete information on the programs and activities that the OPHA offers. 🐾



A winning four-horse hitch of Percheron mares at one of the fall shows.