



Horse Trail Riding Activity

Good Practice Guide

Adapted from Pony Club Victoria guidelines.

Table of Contents

1 Introduction	4
1.1 Horse trail riding overview	4
1.2 Exclusions	4
2 Management of risk	4
2.1 Management of risk	4
2.1.2 Risk management plan	4
2.1.3 Trained First Aid Personnel.....	4
3 Planning	5
3.1 Activity plans	5
3.1.1 Routine Horse Trail Riding activity plans	5
3.1.2 Advanced Horse Trail Riding activity plans.....	5
3.2 Emergency management planning	5
3.2.1 Horse Trail Riding emergency management planning	5
4 Participants	6
4.1 Pre-activity communication	6
4.1.1 Information provided pre-activity.....	6
4.2 Participant restrictions	6
4.2.1 Routine Horse Trail Riding participant restrictions	6
4.2.2 Advanced Horse Trail Riding participant restrictions.....	6
4.3 Vulnerable participants	6
4.3.1 Horse Trail Riding with participants living with a disability	6
5 Environment	8
5.1 Environment related planning	8
5.1.1 Environment considerations	8
5.1.2 Traveling on roads & paths	8
5.1.3 Weather Information.....	8
5.1.4 Severe weather triggers	8
5.2 Bushfire, prescribed fire and fire danger	9
5.3 Water and river crossings	9

5.3.1 Flooding.....	9
5.4 Wildlife/other animals & safety.....	9
5.5 Environmental sustainability procedures	10
5.5.1 Routine Horse Trail Rides - Environmental sustainability procedures.....	10
5.5.2 Advanced Horse Trail Rides - Environmental sustainability procedures	10
6 Equipment, horses and logistics	11
6.1 Horse suitability	11
6.1.1 Routine trail rides horse suitability	11
6.1.2 Advanced trail rides horse suitability	11
6.2 Equipment requirements	11
6.2.1 Safety equipment.....	11
6.2.2 Clothing.....	11
6.2.3 Footwear.....	12
6.3 Use of safety equipment.....	12
6.3.1 Routine horse trail ride participants equipment.....	12
6.3.2 Advanced horse trail ride participants equipment.....	12
6.4 Tack requirements.....	12
6.5 Use of tack	12
6.6 Support vehicles	12
7 Leadership	13
7.1 Naming conventions	13
7.1.1 Assistant trail guide role	13
7.2 Group size.....	13
7.3 Recommended supervision ratios	13
7.4 Activity instruction	14
7.5 Activity management	14
7.5.1 Routine Horse Trail Ride activity management.....	14
7.5.2 Advanced Horse Trail Ride activity management	14
7.6 Horse management	15
7.6.1 Routine Horse Trail Ride horse management	15
7.6.2 Advanced Horse Trail Ride horse management.....	15
Appendices	16
Appendix 1 Routine Horse Trail Ride equipment.....	16
A1.1 Spare horse equipment.....	16
A1.2 Horse first aid.....	16
A1.3 Emergency and rescue.....	16
A1.4 Trail guides	16
A1.5 Participants	16
Appendix 2 Advanced Horse Trail Ride equipment.....	16
A2.1 Spare horse equipment.....	16

A2.2 Horse first aid.....	17
A2.3 Emergency and rescue.....	17
A2.4 Trail guides	17
A2.5 Participant	17
A2.6 Group.....	17
A2.7 Other equipment.....	17
Appendix 3 Weather information	18
Appendix 4 Trail Guide competencies – Routine & Advanced horse trail rides.....	19
Horse Trail Riding Guide Check List Form.....	18

1 Introduction

1.1 Horse trail riding overview

A horse trail ride involves organised horse riding where dependent pony club members are led as a group, outside of small enclosed areas and through varying environments.

Horse trail rides include:

- short routine rides in tracked areas
- longer rides in untracked or remote areas
- rides where riders provide their own mounts.
- This Guide identifies specific section headings that separate requirements for:
- Routine ride (a trail ride undertaken at a Pony Club rally or activity whereby the group travel within the area local to the Pony Club).

Advanced rides (trail ride or activity organised by club whereby participants travel to another location for the purpose of trail riding and could include overnight stay).

1.2 Exclusions

This guide does not cover riding lessons and competitive events.

2 Management of risk

2.1 Management of risk

2.1.2 Risk management plan

A Horse Trial Riding Guide checklist has been created and can be found at the conclusion of this document. We recommend clubs complete this checklist and keep a record on file. A risk management plan must address but is not limited to:

- individual horse behaviours
- interactions between people and horses
- interactions between the environment and horses
- interactions between horses.

For example;

- if a horse becomes lame
- if a horse becomes loose
- if a horse becomes loose and is disrupting other horses
- if a loose horse heads home
- management of the group (e.g. dismounting) when it needs to wait while an incident is addressed
- if weather conditions impact horse behaviour
- if a rider wants to return home immediately and not continue the ride
- if the location/weather impacts the ability to continue the ride
- if an uninjured rider does not want to get back on the horse after a fall
- if a rider cannot physically get back on the horse without a mounting block
- if a foreseeable emergency occurs (also see section 3.2 Emergency management planning)
- general activity logistics.

2.1.3 Trained First Aid Personnel

Each trail ride to have a trained First Aid personnel in attendance with minimum qualification;

- Provide First Aid (HLTAID003).

3 Planning

3.1 Activity plans

3.1.1 Routine Horse Trail Riding activity plans

Planning considerations should include but are not limited to:

- safety of riders at all times
- safety of horse and rider combination
- an appropriate contingency plan for a horse and rider who prove to pose an unduly high risk to themselves, others and/or horses
- how to maintain the welfare of the horses at all times
- providing progressive and sequential skill practice & development
- the expected trail conditions
- route and terrain specific hazards and risks
- environmental impact and biosecurity (e.g. spread of weeds and invasive species).
- Seeking permission to access National Park

Clubs are encouraged to complete the attached 'Horse Trail Riding Guide Checklist' document prior to ride.

3.1.2 Advanced Horse Trail Riding activity plans

The advanced horse trail riding activity plan should address but is not limited to items listed for routine trail rides above.

Additional advance horse trail riding planning considerations should include but are not limited to:

- the need for a support vehicle(s) or pack horses
- the required navigation skills & equipment
- the suitability of maps for navigation
- the access available to the start and finish locations and throughout the activity
- evacuation options

3.2 Emergency management planning

3.2.1 Horse Trail Riding emergency management planning

A non-participating contact must be used as part of the emergency management plan for all horse trail riding activities.

The emergency management plan must address but is not limited to:

- access by emergency services & evacuation routes
- the rider is injured and cannot continue
- a rider falls
- a horse is injured
- a horse is out of control of its rider
- a loose horse heads home and other horses follow
- a horse behaves dangerously and/or exhibits vices
- a horse tries to roll
- a horse has a fall or is stuck
- any other relevant items identified in the – Emergency Management Plan.

4 Participants

Any new member must initially be considered inexperienced until a full assessment of their abilities has been conducted.

4.1 Pre-activity communication

4.1.1 Information provided pre-activity

Consider what information participants need to advise the organiser prior to the activity including any relevant health conditions to rider or horse and if rider is living with a disability.

Providers need to determine if they can suitably manage the risks involved when catering for specific participant needs (e.g. providing activities for participants living with a disability).

Pre-activity information provided to participants should include what footwear, clothing and gear would be appropriate to wear and within PCV rules.

4.2 Participant restrictions

4.2.1 Routine Horse Trail Riding participant restrictions

A risk-based assessment that includes the rider and horse combination must be completed for relevant health, medical or personal condition(s).

A participant may not be able to participate in an activity, for the safety of themselves, the club, other participants or others.

Reasons may include but are not limited to, the participant:

- is unable to control their horse
- weighs greater than the weight that can safely be carried by their horse
- has a personal condition where the risks associated in undertaking the activity cannot be suitably managed - sections Participant Restrictions and Health & Wellbeing and below section 4.3.1 Participants living with a disability.)

4.2.2 Advanced Horse Trail Riding participant restrictions

Reasons may include but are not limited to, the participant:

- has a restriction listed in the above section 4.2.1 Routine ride participant restriction
- is riding their own horse which is unsuitable (refer section 6.1 Horse suitability).

4.3 Vulnerable participants

4.3.1 Horse Trail Riding with participants living with a disability

People living with a disability may require Trail Guides with additional recognised qualifications, knowledge and skills. Specialist training is available specifically for those responsible for overseeing riding undertaken by people with a disability.

Only trail guides who hold the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) qualification should provide trail rides for people who are living with a type of disability that might impact on their ability to effectively control a horse.

Reasons a participant living with a disability may not be able to participate in an activity may include but are not limited to, the participant:

- is unable to use their hands or legs
- cannot maintain their balance
- has a condition that makes the length of ride unsuitable due but not limited to:
 - the attention span required by the participant or physical conditions where pain is a factor
 - intellectual or sensory disability.

A risk-based assessment that includes the rider and horse combination must be completed for relevant health, medical or personal condition(s).

Health, medical or personal conditions where the risks cannot be suitably managed include but are not limited to:

- severe osteoporosis
- uncontrolled seizures
- open pressure sores
- open wounds
- unstable spine, including subluxation of cervical spine
- Atlanto-Axial dislocation or significant subluxation in Down Syndrome
- advanced multiple sclerosis and muscular dystrophy
- acute herniated disc.

Considerations for providing trail rides for participants living with a disability include but are not limited to:

- the horses are suitable (also refer section 6.1 Horse suitability)
- the activity leaders have the appropriate competencies for managing the risks involved (also refer Leadership sections 7.2 Competencies & 7.3 Recognition of competence)
- there is an appropriate number of activity leaders to provide direct supervision where required for individual participants
- possible restrictions as per above section 4.2 Participant restrictions.

Possible additional risk management strategies may include but are not limited to:

- trail guides leading the participant's horse
- having a 'side-walker' assigned to individual participants if the terrain makes this possible.

Where the risks of a trail ride are unacceptable or are unable to be appropriately managed, consideration of a modified version of the activity - such as riding in an enclosed area - may assist in addressing the concerns.

5 Environment

5.1 Environment related planning

5.1.1 Environment considerations

Specific environment considerations must include:

- track or trail features (e.g. water crossings, bridges etc.)
- other users (e.g. mountain bikers, walkers, horse riders, motorbikes, vehicles)
- climate or weather (refer sections below 5.1.4 Severe weather and 5.2 Bushfire, prescribed fire and fire danger)
- the type of flora expected (e.g. impeding progress, ability to cut or scratch, high pollen count etc.)
- the type of fauna expected (refer section 5.4 wildlife safety below).

Track or trail features that must be considered are:

- the condition of the track or trail (e.g. after wet weather, gradient, surface, width)
- the obstacles to be negotiated
- the expected level of competence needed to negotiate the trail's features
- the expected level of fitness of horse and rider needed to negotiate the trail's features and conditions.
- Permission to access

5.1.2 Traveling on roads & paths

Any applicable road legislation or regulation must be complied with.

Appropriate risk management procedures must be implemented when using roads or vehicle tracks.

When riding on roads, procedures must be in place to:

- make riders aware that horses are considered vehicles
- keep to the left and obey all traffic rules and regulations.
- have a more experienced rider on the road side if riders are in pairs
- crossing of road is suitably controlled by the activity leaders and possibly additional support staff for major road crossings.
- ride horses abreast no more than 1.5 m apart.
- ride in single file or two abreast at most
- pair horses that are not aggressive to each other together.

Also refer section 7.7 Activity management.

5.1.3 Weather Information

Refer Appendix 3 Weather information.

5.1.4 Severe weather triggers

Trigger points must be based on the relevant Bureau of Meteorology weather warnings and actual weather conditions.

The risk management plan and emergency management plan should include guidance on relevant trigger points and associated actions for:

- thunderstorm warnings
- pollen count
- coastal waters wind warnings
- extreme cold temperature
- extreme hot temperatures.

Actions for relevant weather may include but are not limited to:

- cancellation
- modification and/or evacuation to a safe location
- avoiding locations affected by tides or surf
- avoiding areas and river crossings that have the potential for flash flooding

- preparations to avoid the risks associated with blizzards
- moving to areas that are protected from strong winds
- managing risks of flying or falling items during strong winds
- moving to areas that are protected from hail
- preparations to avoid the risks associated with lightning.

5.2 Bushfire, prescribed fire and fire danger

Bush fire, prescribed fire and fire danger.

5.3 Water and river crossings

The safety of bridge crossings must be reviewed prior to use as a crossing point. Considerations for the safety of bridge crossings include but are not limited to:

- has appropriate guard rails if deemed necessary
- provides safe footing including having no missing pieces or significant holes in the crossing surface
- the design is appropriate for a horse to cross.

When assessing the suitability of a potential creek/river crossing, considerations should include but are not limited to:

- if there is debris floating or flowing in the current, as this can indicate the risk of being hit and/or swept away by debris
- how clear the water is and if the base of the crossing can be seen, as this can help determine the depth of crossing and its base
- the depth of the crossing, as this can indicate the amount of water and force needed to be overcome to avoid being washed away
- the speed of the water, as this can indicate the volume of water and force needed to be overcome to avoid being washed away
- where the water flows, as the flow may wash people into dangerous or deadly situations (e.g. into trees in the water that act as strainers, into narrow rock crevices)
- the base of the crossing (e.g. pebbles, sand, small rocks or large rocks), as moving water can move the base increasing the danger of foot entrapment and/or reducing the likelihood of maintaining stable footing during the crossing
- crossing downstream of unusable bridges and causeways.

5.3.1 Flooding

The crossing of swollen creeks, rivers, flooded bridges or fords, or the entry of floodwaters should be avoided.

Areas likely to experience flash flooding should be avoided during severe weather or thunderstorms. The suitability of water for drinking for human consumption should be assessed and avoided or treated in all cases.

5.4 Wildlife/other animals & safety

Procedures should be in place to minimise the risks associated with wildlife/other animals that may be encountered. You may need to consider the following, but are not limited to:

- birds
- deer
- echidna
- kangaroos
- pigs / alpaca / donkey / dogs
- rabbits
- snakes
- ticks
- wombats

5.5 Environmental sustainability procedures

5.5.1 Routine Horse Trail Rides - Environmental sustainability procedures

Horse Trail Ride - Travel on durable surfaces

The procedures may include but are not limited to:

- identify and avoid disturbing unstable, erosion prone or excessively rain effected terrain
- using appropriate and safe bridges wherever possible to avoid impact on water quality, ecosystems and erosion
- using firm, stony water crossings where no bridges are available, to minimise the impact on water quality, ecosystems and erosion
- using existing tracks, pathways or roads to avoid damage to vegetation.

Horse Trail Ride - Be considerate of your hosts and other visitors

The procedures may include but are not limited to:

- only allowing horses to eat weed-free feed at least 48 hrs prior to entering bushland areas (e.g. eating clean chaff, pellets and cracked, rolled or steamed grains and avoiding meadow hay)
- cleaning horse hoofs prior to entry to avoid transporting weeds or invasive species
- advising land managers or owners where weeds and invasive species have been identified
- planned actions for trail activity leaders and participants to appropriately manage interactions between horses and the general public.

5.5.2 Advanced Horse Trail Rides - Environmental sustainability procedures

The procedures may include but are not limited to those listed in section 5.5.1 Routine horse trail ride sustainability procedures above and:

Advance Horse Trail Ride - Travel and camp on durable surfaces

The procedures may include but are not limited to:

- always camp horses a suitable distance away from watercourses
- avoid allowing horses to denude (strip) vegetation
- check with land managers regarding the use of nightlines and ensure that portable yards, if used, are relocated each night
- use tree protectors on nightlines to prevent trees from being damaged
- incorporate stops in each nightline to prevent horses from becoming entangled around trees place nightlines and arrange camps so that it is not possible for horses to walk on people or equipment
- where possible, make nightlines 15 metres or more in length to reduce concentrated impacts. Advanced Horse Trail Ride – Dispose of waste properly

Procedures may include but are not limited to:

- using collapsible buckets, and/or a pump and hose, to water and wash horses
- wash horses a suitable distance away from watercourses
- dispose of, or widely disperse manure from overnight campsites.

6 Equipment, horses and logistics

6.1 Horse suitability

Procedures must be in place to assess horses for their suitability before being used for trail rides. Procedures must be in place to assess horses for their suitability for trail rides on an ongoing basis.

When assessing their suitability, horses must be categorised as being suitable for different levels of riders and for routine trail rides and/or advanced trail rides.

Procedures must be in place to ensure any relevant horse behaviour and/or idiosyncrasies are made known to the relevant people interacting with or riding the horse.

6.1.1 Routine trail rides horse suitability

Horse suitability for the rider should include but are not limited to:

- its size
- being socialized with other horses
- behaviour does not present an unacceptable risk
- fitness and ability to work effectively on the trail ride
- relevant horse behaviour and/or idiosyncrasies are known.

Horses must not be used for routine trail rides where their behaviour includes aggression to other horses, bolting, over reaction or over responsiveness.

6.1.2 Advanced trail rides horse suitability

Horse suitability for the rider should include but are not limited to:

- the level of competence of the rider to safely handle the horse's behaviour
- those 'considerations as to their suitability' listed in section 6.1.1 Routine trail rides horse suitability.

Advanced trail ride, considerations of a horse suitability must include but are not limited to:

- that the participant is able to appropriately control the horse
- the horse's behaviour is not aggressive towards people or other horses
- its fitness & health
- its hoof condition is suitable for the terrain and length of ride
- tack is well fitted, suitable and safe
- relevant horse behaviour and/or idiosyncrasies are known
- it is appropriately vaccinated where deemed necessary.

Yarding horses not already familiar with each other must be avoided to prevent conflicts and injuries.

6.2 Equipment requirements

6.2.1 Safety equipment

As per Pony Club Tasmania rules and regulations.

SECTION 6: Gear Rules and APPENDIX 4 PCT Handbook V5.0 Guidelines for Pony Club Officials (October 2020) 72 PREVENTING EQUESTRIAN INJURIES

6.2.2 Clothing

Procedures must be in place to ensure appropriate clothing for the expected and foreseeable weather conditions is available.

The minimum clothing requirements must be:

- short sleeves shirt with a collar
- full length trousers.

Considerations for determining appropriate clothing include but are not limited to offering protection from:

- physical injuries
- weather
- distress to the rider (e.g. grazes, sunburn, rubbing etc.).

6.2.3 Footwear

As per Pony Club Tasmania rules and regulations.

6.3 Use of safety equipment

6.3.1 Routine horse trail ride participants equipment

As per Pony Club Tasmania rules and regulations.

6.3.2 Advanced horse trail ride participants equipment

As per Pony Club Tasmania rules and regulations.

6.4 Tack requirements

As per Pony Club Tasmania rules and regulations.

6.5 Use of tack

As per Pony Club Tasmania rules and regulations under the guidance of Pony Club Accredited Coach.

6.6 Support vehicles

The use of a support vehicle to aid and assist a group during the activity may be useful or necessary and the hazards and risks associated with vehicle operations need to be managed.

Support vehicles must comply with the laws, regulations or requirements for the relevant jurisdiction(s). Operators of support vehicles must:

- hold a current and appropriate licence to operate the vehicle
- be competent to operate the vehicle in the foreseeable conditions
- understand and have immediate access to the emergency management plan.

7 Leadership

7.1 Naming conventions

The use of Trail Guide refers Pony Club Accredited Coach.

Assistant trail guide: An assistant trail guide is a person competent to interact with horses including handling and riding.

All Trail Guide and Assistant Trail Guide competencies needed for a particular role must be clearly defined.

7.1.1 Assistant trail guide role

Assistant trail guides must be:

- under direct supervision of a trail guide
- understand the emergency response procedures for the activity.

Assistant trail guides may take the responsibility for:

- handling horses
- taking the front position on a ride
- other appropriate tasks as directed by the Trail Guide(s)
- assisting with emergency response procedures.

The assistant trail guides role should not include:

- responsibility for the safety of participants.

7.2 Group size

The recommended maximum single group size should not exceed 20 horses i.e. total horses carrying participants, guides and pack horses not to exceed 20.

7.3 Recommended supervision ratios

In determining the supervision ratio, consideration must be given to the:

- experience, ability, needs and age of the participants
- considerations listed in section 4.3 Participants living with a disability – and any known special needs
- experience, ability, history, behaviour and/or idiosyncrasies of the horses
- nature of the activities and weather conditions
- terrain and challenge of trail.

Supervision provided must allow adequate supervision of all participants and the ability to rapidly, and adequately, respond to emergency situations.

On any trail ride there should be 2 trail guide(s) and/or assistant trial guide(s) with current first aid qualifications.

There must not be more than 6 participants per trail guide.

The recommended supervision requirements that should be used on routine and advanced rides are:

Participants	Supervision
1-6	1 trail guide & 1 assistant trail guide
7-12	2 trail guides & 1 assistant trail guide
13-17	3 trail guides
participants under age of 8	refer text below

It is recommended good practice that the assistant trail guide should be used in a role which allows trail guides maximum flexibility in supervision of participants. For example, the assistant trail guide rides the front horse to set the pace and route advised by the trail guides, allowing all the trail guides freedom to move throughout the group to provide supervision as needed.

Participants younger than 8 years of age, unless competent horse riders and in control of a suitable horse, must be on a lead rope controlled by a trail guide. This trail guide must not be counted in the ratios for the purposes of the whole group's supervision.

Where participants involved in advanced horse trail rides are inexperienced in interacting with horses, the minimum supervision must be 2 trail guides.

7.4 Activity instruction

As directed by Pony Club Accredited Coach.

7.5 Activity management

A trail guide should be familiar with the activity location and/or trail network. Participants should be able to easily identify trail guides who will be wearing high visibility vest identifying them – or the like

The rider and horse combination should be allocated based on the assessed ability of the rider and suitability of the horse.

All trail ride activities should be provided at a level suitable for the abilities of the least experienced rider involved.

7.5.1 Routine Horse Trail Ride activity management

Horses should be in a secure, hazard-free area, and held for inexperienced riders when they mount. Prior to commencing the ride, a check must occur to ensure:

- each participant has a helmet that is correctly fitted
- the stirrup length and stirrup fit to shoe size is appropriate

A practical assessment of all participant's riding skills must be undertaken prior to the departure of the ride. All riders must demonstrate they can:

- hold and use the reins to control their horse including to stop and turn it
- demonstrate correct positioning of their feet in their stirrup and an ability to apply pressure for forward motion
- understand and comply with instructions.

Riding on roads or other traffic areas should be avoided where possible.

Where a routine trail ride does ride on roads, this should be in single file where possible. Also refer section 5.1.2 Traveling on roads or paths.

7.5.2 Advanced Horse Trail Ride activity management

Procedures should be used to reduce the potential of participants becoming separated or lost. An assessment of all participants' riding skills must be undertaken prior to departure. Assessment of participants' riding skills may include but is not limited to:

- the ability of the rider to control their horse when moving away from and towards the group at walk, trot and canter.

Where participants on advanced trail rides are assessed as inexperienced or beginner riders:

- the suitability of allowing the participant to undertake the activity should be considered
- the management of the activity should reflect their needs
- consideration should be given to increasing the number of trail guides to ensure participants are appropriately supervised.
- dangerous horse behaviours between unsocialised horses
- the participants horse's behaviour and/or idiosyncrasies.

Additional procedures to consider may include but are not limited to:

- not allowing horses that show aggression to other horses to participate or
- keeping horses that show aggression to other horses separate at all times.

All riders should be made aware of the particular horses that show aggression to other horses.

A reliable means of identifying horses that are inclined to kick out should be used (e.g. ribbon in the horse's tail).

Inexperienced riders and their horses must be kept separated from horses that show aggression to other horses at all times.

Also refer section 5.1.2 Traveling on roads or paths.

7.6 Horse management

7.6.1 Routine Horse Trail Ride horse management

Appropriate management of the health and safety of horses must include but is not limited to:

- the horses are fed and watered prior to use
- the horses are groomed properly including hoof care
- their equipment fits horse and rider and is suitable for the activity
- horses are not used if lame or sick
- each horse's fitness and condition is appropriate for ride
- the rider's size is appropriate for their horse and the expectations of the ride
- horses are not stressed by rider behaviour
- horses are not stressed by other horses (e.g. being bullied)
- horses are washed down at the end of the ride if they have sweated profusely
- horses' water intake is appropriate.

7.6.2 Advanced Horse Trail Ride horse management

Appropriate management of the health and safety of horses for advanced rides must include but is not limited to:

- as listed in section 7.8.1 Routine horse trail ride horse management above
- monitoring for signs of rubbing equipment and muscular problems
- the preparations made for any changes in diet to be used before or on the ride to avoid colic and the spread of weeds
- provided with adequate food and water, rest stops and shelter.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Routine Horse Trail Ride equipment

The equipment required, and the appropriate “type” of equipment used is dependent on the specific context of the activity.

Equipment used for routine horse trail riding may include but is not limited to:

A1.1 Spare horse equipment

Spare equipment may include but is not limited to:

- reins
- stirrup leather
- lead rope
- halter
- baling twine/hay string.

A1.2 Horse first aid

A horse first aid kit should include but is not limited to:

- hoof pick
- suitable bandages
- head collar and rope.

A1.3 Emergency and rescue

Emergency equipment includes but is not limited to:

- an appropriate communication device for area of ride
- first aid kit in waterproof storage
- documentation
- a waterproof method of storing and carrying documentation and communications equipment.

A1.4 Trail guides

Trail guides equipment may include but is not limited to that listed for participants.

A1.5 Participants

Trail guides equipment may include but is not limited to:

- appropriate clothing – high visibility
- appropriate footwear
- appropriate personal protective equipment
- personal medications
- sunglasses
- prescription glasses.

Appendix 2 Advanced Horse Trail Ride equipment

The equipment required, and the appropriate “type” of equipment used is dependent on the specific context of the activity. Equipment used for advanced horse trail riding may include but is not limited to equipment listed for Appendix I Routine horse trail rides and:

A2.1 Spare horse equipment

Advanced trail rides spare additional equipment may include but is not limited to:

- Hole punch/zip ties (various sizes).
- spare girth & breastplate(s)

A2.2 Horse first aid

An advanced trail ride horse first aid kit should also include but is not limited to:

- antiseptic
- petroleum jelly.

A2.3 Emergency and rescue

Advanced trail rides additional emergency equipment includes but is not limited to:

- emergency shelter where appropriate for the context
- emergency equipment to keep a patient warm (e.g. space blanket).

A2.4 Trail guides

Advanced trail rides additional trail guides equipment may include but is not limited to:

- relevant maps and navigation information
- a waterproof method of storing and carrying maps and navigation information
- compass and/or other navigation aids (e.g. GPS)
- head torch and spare batteries
- wire cutters, plus items listed for participants.

A2.5 Participant

Advanced trail rides additional participant equipment may include but is not limited to:

- sunscreen
- personal medication & action plans
- water container
- food or snacks.

A2.6 Group

Advanced trail rides additional group equipment may include but is not limited to:

- trowel for toileting
- toilet paper
- hand sanitiser
- water purification system
- food for duration plus spare
- rubbish bags
- sunscreen
- insect repellent.

A2.7 Other equipment

Advanced trail rides other additional equipment may include but is not limited to:

- saddle bags for personal items
- equipment to clean footwear and other equipment that may carry soil borne pathogens (e.g. phytophthora)
- horse feed for overnight trail rides
- buckets for watering horses
- nightlines
- nosebags for feed
- grooming equipment
- collapsible rake
- sharp knife
- euthanasia kit for overnight rides which do not have access to a quick response from veterinary assistance
- hole punch & wire cutters
- basic farrier kit.

Appendix 3 Weather information

The Bureau of Meteorology provides a range of services. For details refer to:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/weather-services/WeatherGuideLand.pdf>

The following table details the:

- current Australian weather warnings
- associated weather for each warning
- mainland warning trigger points for issuing warnings for strong winds and hail.

Bureau of Meteorology weather warnings and associated weather Table:

Severe Weather warning	Severe Thunderstorm warning	Marine Wind Warning
High tides		
Large surf		
Heavy rain/flash flooding	Heavy rain/flash flooding	
Blizzards		
Strong winds Wind >63 km/h Gusts >90 km/h	Strong winds Gusts >90 km/h	Strong winds Wind >48 km/h or >26 knots
	Pollen count	
	Hail Hail >=2cm	
	Lightning	

Appendix 4 Trail Guide competencies – Routine & Advanced horse trail rides

The following table outlines the recommended minimum competencies or the equivalent, for a Trail Guide and Pony Club Accredited Coach

Assistant Trail Guide	Pony Club Accredited Coach
Operate communications systems and equipment	Operate communications systems and equipment
	Plan for minimal environmental impact
Check and treat horses	Check and treat horses
Provide daily care for horses	Provide daily care for horses
Handle horses	Handle horses
Ride horse using fundamental skills	Ride own horse using fundamental skills
Ride horses on tracked trail rides	Ride own horses on tracked trail rides
Ride horses on untracked trail rides	Load and unload livestock
	Manage horse illness and injury
	Identify hazards, assess and control safety risks for horse handling and riding activities
	Implement animal health control programs
	Apply first aid for horses
	Guide day horse trail rides in tracked areas
	Instruct horse handling skills
	Ride own horse on untracked trail rides
	Use and maintain a temporary or overnight site
	Carry out basic hoof care procedures
	Coordinate and monitor equine transport
	Apply navigation skills in an intermediate environment

HORSE TRAIL RIDING GUIDE CHECK LIST – DATE OF RIDE:

NAME & ADDRESS OF CLUB:

NAME & CONTACT DETAILS OF OFFICIAL ORGANISING RIDE

TRAIL GUIDE / PCA COACH DETAILS

NAME: MYPONYCLUB ID: MOUNT NAME: PCA ACCREDITATION: I have read the Horse Trail Riding Guide ¹Signed	NAME: MYPONYCLUB ID: MOUNT NAME: PCA ACCREDITATION: I have read the Horse Trail Riding Guide.....Signed
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ASSISTANT TRAIL GUIDES DETAILS:

NAME: MYPONYCLUB ID: MOUNT NAME:	NAME: MYPONYCLUB ID: MOUNT NAME:	NAME: MYPONYCLUB ID: MOUNT NAME:
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Gear check performed: Date & Time: _____ Signed: _____
 Any comments:

TRAINED FIRST AID PERSONNEL DETAILS: FIRST AID ACCREDITATION LEVEL:

RIDING PARTICIPANTS – RIDER NAME, HORSE NAME & CONTACT PHONE NUMBER FOR GUARDIAN

Tick which of these applies:

Support vehicle to be used	<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk assessment undertaken	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trail ride will consist of road crossing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planned route left with the club	<input type="checkbox"/>
A first aid kit for riders will be carried	<input type="checkbox"/>	A first aid kit for horses will be carried	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ride has a spare headcollar and lead rope	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permission from landowners obtained	<input type="checkbox"/>
All participants notified of the rules	<input type="checkbox"/>	Participants wearing high visibility clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications to be carried to access emergency services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Club has recorded activity in meeting minutes	<input type="checkbox"/>

INCIDENTS OR OTHER NOTES: Ensure you complete an accident report form and forward to club DC.

¹ Copy of Horse Trail Riding Guide available on PCT website
 Checklist to be retained by club and minuted at next meeting following trail ride.

