

Let's talk about

HORSES



Question: Could you please tell me some of the rules of the road when you're riding horseback on sideroads.

Answer: The horse is a vehicle just like a car or bicycle and must observe the same rules. He must keep to the right hand side of the road, stop at intersections, signal for turns (at least, the rider may signal for the turns - I can't visualize a horse sticking out his left hoof.) The horse must be under control at all times and observe the speed limits. Reckless riding - i.e. galloping, careering along travelling on the centre of the road - is penalized; so is drunken riding.

A horse has the right of way so car drivers have to concede half the road when passing, just as with bicycle riders. Drivers, also, are obliged to drive carefully when approaching and passing a horse. Drivers have been taken to court and fined for lack of courtesy to riders.

Question: Is it better for horses to be in the stable when it's raining or out in the field?

Answer: Horses prefer to be out in most kinds of weather, especially bad weather. They feel freer to run away from danger when they are out in a pasture. Confining in a stable with thumps and blowing sounds outside is more upsetting for a horse than being out and being able to tuck his tail against the rain and wait it out.

If horses are kept with free access to a barn, such as loose housing, you will find the only time they are in that barn is when it's hot and the flies are bad. If you get up in the night and find a howling blizzard, I'll bet you a dollar all the horses are out in it, back to the wind, snow on the quarters, head down and quite comfortable.

Now, I'm referring to the sturdy, healthy pony or chunky backyard horse. There are hot-blooded horses who can't take extremes of weather without becoming distressed. Fine-coated Arabs or Thoroughbreds are more comfortable in a stable during storm, rain, and heat. Also, those long cold dreary wet days we so often experience in November aren't good for most horses - stabling at night is advisable.

Horses are generally tougher than you think and enjoy cold or blowy weather. Summer rains make the grass taste sweet, cool off their skin, and chase away the flies. Leave them out in it.

Hard to find school guards

School crossing guards seem hard to get in Acton. Clerk Administrator Doug Pritchard told council Monday night, that he thought all the Acton crossing guards had resigned.

He said they were running advertisements for Ward 1 (Acton) but if they received no response would either have to have none or pay travel allowances for guards from Georgetown to come to Acton.

Councillor Harry Levy suggested Safety Officer Sgt. P. Bromley of Halton Regional Police set up school safety patrols in Acton as he was doing in Georgetown.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said three of the crossings in Acton were on the highway and he felt a 12-year-old should not be expected to stop traffic on a highway.

Mayor Tom Hill said the school patrols would be trained before school starts.

Council lounge

Halton Regional Councillors may get a lounge or a room that will serve as a committee room and a councillors' lounge.

Members of the council's administration committee considered the problem at their meeting Wednesday. According to Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur, the lack of a place where members could meet and chat over coffee was the cause of some problems the region has today. She felt members didn't talk enough to one another on a social level.

Original plans

Original plans for the regional headquarters included a councillor's lounge, but among other things the lounge was chopped when council reduced the space it would authorize in the new building.

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