



Desensitizing Your Horse

- Teach your horse to stand tied quietly.
- Get your horse accustomed to different stalls.
- Practice loading and unloading your horse.
- Practice driving to a nearby destination and exposing your horse to a new setting.
- Acclimate your horse to being alone.
- Practice leading your horse from both sides.

Preparing for Travel

- Acquire all necessary horse health papers.
- Prepare your horse to drink flavored water or plan to bring sufficient water for your horse(s).
- Plan route and alternative route.
- Identify trailer-friendly gas stations/truck stops, restaurants, horse "hotels," lodging and emergency towing services.
- Identify list of veterinarians along route.
- Consider purchasing roadside assistance insurance for trailers.
- Alert your network of friends for contacts along the way in case you need help.

Questions for the Event Coordinator (Onsite)

- Where and how will horse(s) be stalled?
- Are facility maps available?
- Do security guards make regular patrols?
- Will emergency personnel be onsite for riders?
- Are a veterinarian and farrier available?
- How many other horses are expected?
- Are dogs allowed onsite?
- Is bedding available and if so, what type(s)?
- Is there a horse-wash area onsite and if so, what type of flooring does it have?
- What are registration hours?
- Who is the emergency contact person at the event?
- What types of warmup areas are available?

Questions for the Event Coordinator (Offsite)

- Is there a mechanic/tire repair shop close by?
- How close is the nearest hospital/urgent treatment center/pharmacy?
- What is the location of trailer parking relative to the stable?
- Are there nearby hotels or is lodging provided onsite or is trailer/camper parking with electric hook-ups available?
- Are restaurants/grocery stores close by?
- Are there feed stores, tack stores or tack repair shops nearby?

Trailer Preparation

- Have your trailer serviced annually.
- Inspect the trailer mats and flooring.
- Check for insects, rodent damage and birds/bird nests.
- Check wheel bearings and have axles serviced.
- Make sure trailer tags are up-to-date.

Before Any Trip with Your Trailer:

- Know your vehicle and hitch system rating to safely tow your loaded trailer.
- Verify that all your lights are working.
- Adjust the electric brakes for the load you will be towing.
- Check the brakes and breakaway brake battery.
- Check tire tread and air pressure and make sure tires are rated for the weight you are pulling.
- Ensure the trailer is solidly connected to the tow vehicle and appropriately locked in place.
- Have a good spare tire for the truck and one for the trailer.
- Carry wheel chocks.
- Have a portable air compressor in your vehicle.
- Make sure the jack, tire iron and jumper cable are appropriate for your trailer and tow vehicle.
- Have a working fire extinguisher and reflective safety triangles or hazard flares in your vehicle in the event of a breakdown.
- Familiarize yourself with Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations if you have DOT tags on your trailer.

Other Things to Bring

- Supply of your own horse's feed, hay and/or water.
- Bedding (for the trailer and at your destination if your horse will be stalled).
- Spare halters and lead ropes.
- Buckets.
- Flashlight, spare batteries.
- First-aid kit (people and horse).
- Shovel and bucket to pick up manure.
- Duct tape, baling twine, small tools.
- SaddleUp SAFELY Stall card(s) and I.C.E. cards for both horse and rider.
- All of your tack/equipment.
- Knife.

Loading

- Have a clear route to exit the trailer after loading.
- Ensure partitions separating horses are secure.
- Never tie the horse until butt bar is up.
- Ensure doors are closed and latched.
- Conduct a final check of trailer, hitch, lights and towing vehicle before taking off.

In Transit

- Know the weather conditions along your route.
- Offer your horse water every 2-4 hours.
- Make regular visual assessments of your horse's general condition.
- Be aware of the temperature inside the trailer.
- Check trailer tires and hubs for heat when you stop.
- When you stop, recheck hitch and doors.

Unloading

- Examine the area for hazards prior to unloading.
- Inspect the stall for hazards.
- Release horse's head before butt bar is down.
- Don't stand behind the horse.
- Place a stall card with your contact information in the front of the stall.
- Before riding your horse on the event grounds, familiarize yourself with the area.

After Returning Home

- Observe horse for signs of illness over the next few days.
- Inspect and clean trailer.
- Inspect your tack for any needed repairs.
- Remove any leftover feed or hay from trailer.



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