

## TRAVEL SAFETY

Becoming a complete horseman requires many skills, including the safe conveyance of a horse in a trailer and the maintenance of the vehicle itself. One must pay attention to details, laws, and regulations and use common sense.

These suggestions should help you have a safe and comfortable trip. Remember, avoid traveling alone when trailering. There are many circumstances where an assistant can help avoid a dangerous situation. Consult with experienced horsemen for additional help.

## TRAILER MAINTENANCE

Safety Check (each time you tow or at least weekly).

### CHECK:

- Oil, fluid levels, belts on tow vehicle.
- Hitch on tow vehicle for loose or cracked welds and bolts.
- Trailer for rust in receiver.
- Tow vehicle for loose ball.
- Both vehicles for loose or broken electrical connectors.
- Signal and brake lights on trailer.
- Safety chains and hooks and places they connect.
- Tire pressure on tow vehicle, trailer and spare tires.

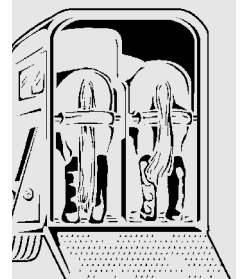
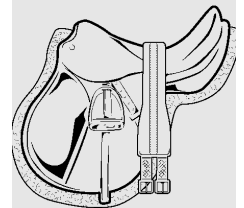
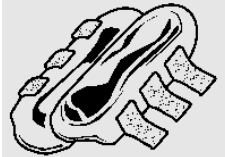
- Tire changing equipment to fit trailer and vehicle tires.
- Dual tires – hit inside tire with hammer, hammer will bounce back if air pressure is okay.
- Interior for wasp and hornet nests – they can appear within a week!

### BE SURE TO HAVE (WHEN REQUIRED):

- Tow vehicle registration form.
- Insurance card.
- Trailer registration with current inspection stamp.
- Coggins test and health papers required for horses.

### EACH MONTH:

- Clean and inspect your trailer (so it will be ready to go when you are)
- Clean inside and out with soap and water
- Wash and wax trailer exterior
- Check tires for cuts and uneven wear
- Check wheels, bearings and brakes
- Check quick releases mechanisms and D rings where they attach to trailer
- Check floor mats; inspect and clean floors with mats removed
- Check lubrication of nose wheel, hitch assembly and tailgate mechanism (especially if stored outside)
- Check center partition, lubricate groove bolts and rump chain or bars for easy removal in an emergency
- Check surface rust and sharp edges that may be developing, touch up with paint and repair when needed.

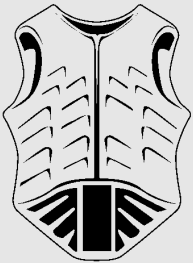
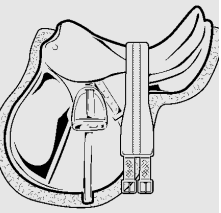


## PONY CLUB SAFETY INFORMATION PACKET



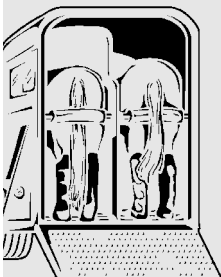
### AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR, CHECK:

- Inspection date, register in the appropriate month (if required)
- Insurance coverage
- Condition of springs (for cracks)
- Condition of all wiring, bulbs, lenses and reflectors
- All channel iron supporting the floor for rust or cracks
- The underside of the floor for dry rot by scraping and probing with a knife
- Tread and condition of tires, including the spare
- Ramps and hinge for sag or rust – oil hinges
- Tailgate and threads on screw-type clamps for wear, replace if beginning to strip
- Braking system, including shoes
- Wheel bearings (repack)
- Wood floor planks (seal with a wood preservative)



### EQUIPMENT LIST FOR TRAILER *(Even for short trips)*

- Tool Kit – including:
  - Sturdy knife to cut tie ropes in an emergency
  - Crowbar (essential in case of need to remove center divider quickly)
  - Screw driver, plier, hammer, wrench, etc.
  - Extra bulbs for trailer light
  - Fuse (20 amp)
  - Extra pin for hitch of tow vehicle



- First Aid Kit – human and equine (see Horse Management Handbook for list)
- Small pail and sponge or cloth
- Extra cotton and leg wraps
- Jumper cables
- Spare tire and jack for tow vehicle and trailer
- Two chocks or blocks to put behind front and back tires when parked
- Towing chain
- Flares – in case of breakdown (for road warning)
- Large container of fresh water – can be used for horses, first aid treatment or some car problems
- Longe line, extra lead line and halter, sheet or blanket
- Broom, shovel, fork, rake, manure disposal bags (leave-parking areas clean)
- Hay and feed needed for trip
- Water and feed buckets, hay net (fastened so it won't swing around or drop too low) – with fresh hay for each trip
- Chains and hooks for putting up buckets and stall guard if staying overnight
- Maps, directions and phone number needed