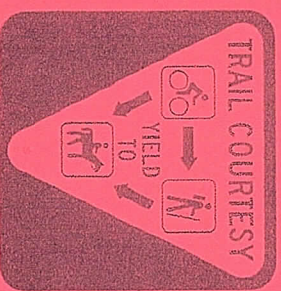


HOW TO SAFELY APPROACH HORSES AND RIDERS ON THE TRAILS IN BIDWELL PARK

If you approach a horse from behind

If you approach a horse and rider from behind while on the trail, announce your presence. Say something like, "hello," "jogger," or "bike riders approaching." This alerts the rider, so she has time to do what's necessary to control her horse. Horses are far less likely to be spooked by the sound of your voice than if you suddenly appear beside them. Also, horses have a large blind spot behind them, so they may not see you. Further, startled horses tend to bolt, which can put the rider and those around her, including you, in peril.

After announcing yourself, stop or slow down until the rider acknowledges your



*Did you know?
Trail courtesy
dictates that
bike riders and
hikers yield to
horses.*

presence. Follow any instructions the rider may give you about how to safely pass by. When you pass by the horse, do so quietly and calmly, and maintain a safe distance from the horse. Often, riders will move their horse off the trail, so that you can pass by.

If you approach a horse from the front

If you approach a horse and rider from the front, stop while you're still a safe distance away and wait at the side of the trail. Horses cannot see things that are directly in front of them, and they are farsighted, so things up close appear to be blurry. Wait for the rider to give you instructions about how to safely pass by.

Assume a horse is flighty

Like people, horses have different demeanors, some being calm horses, others being flighty horses, and still others being somewhere in between. You can tell a horse is calm because it walks along confidently, with its heads low and its eyes soft. In contrast, a flighty horse prances, spins, and snorts with wild eyes. However, because horses are prey animals and are always aware they can become another

animal's meal, they can become flighty at any time, even sometimes for no apparent reason. To be on the safe side, always assume that a horse you approach is on the flighty side.

Please leash your dog

Not all horses are comfortable with dogs, and not all dogs are comfortable with horses. Leash your dog until the horse and rider have safely passed by.

Bidwell Park is an amazing gift that Annie and John Bidwell left for all of us to enjoy.

As members of Chico Equestrian Association, we strive to safely share the park's trails with all hikers, joggers, bike riders, and dog walkers. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, suggestions, or comments that you have.

Deni Whiting

President
CEA
530.519-3803



Please check out our website at
ChicoEquestrianAssociation.org