

WENTWORTH HUNT



COURTESIES IN THE HUNT FIELD

This must be read before hunting

1. Always sign in with the Field Secretary when you arrive.
2. Please be punctual at hunts – be ready to ride at 10:00 am.
3. Guests should be introduced to the Master of Foxhounds and the Field Master. Please ride Hilltop if this is your first Hunt.
4. During the Hunt --
 - A. You must be able to safely walk, trot and canter your horse to attend a Hunt. Therefore bit up not down.
 - B. Request permission from your Field Master to drop back or retire if your horse is difficult to control.
 - C. Do not overtake a slow Field at a gallop in order to catch up with First or Second Field.
5. Do not reprimand your horse near another rider.
6. Keep a two-horse length between you and the horse in front of you. Tie a red ribbon to the tail of any horse that may kick, and ride at the back of the Field.
7. Experienced jumpers must lead the Field. Do not gap while a horse is jumping and do not jump while a horse is gapping. There must be no schooling over jumps.
8. Turn your horse to Staff or Hounds when they are near you. Call "*Ware Hounds*" to alert other riders. However, do not call to hounds at any time, only staff can give them directions. When hounds are working, there must be silence in the Field. Ride quietly at all times.
9. Please be respectful of other riders. Reckless riding is grounds for dismissal.
10. Thank your Host Landowner at the end of the Hunt; without their generosity, there would be no Foxhunting.
11. Thank your Master of Foxhounds, Field Master, Staff and Fox at the end of the Hunt, they worked long hours for your enjoyment.

**The Wentworth Hunt hopes that you had a great day.
We look forward to Hunting with you again.**

www.wentworthhunt.org



COVERTSIDE

Masters of Foxhounds Association of North America



Masters of Foxhounds Association

THINK SAFETY

The hunting season is in full swing. There are some very important things that will help you get to the end of that run – in one piece.

Our sport, as well as other equestrian disciplines, is a very risky business. The recent rash of horse-related accidents has prompted me to ask all foxhunters to use caution and think ‘safety’ when hunting.

Always pay attention to where your horse will put his next foot down. If you look where you are going, you can avoid holes, ditches, rocks, wire, trees, objects your horse may shy at, *etc.* So many needless falls happen because the rider doesn’t pay attention.

Always be mindful of the going. Don’t gallop your horse through a bottomless mud hole, plowed fields, swamps or bad stream crossings. Pull up and take it easy; your horse will stay sound. Be careful of frozen ground, ice and slippery roads. Go down an icy slope, not across it. Never turn your horse on a paved road; go straight across or along the shoulder.

Always leave yourself enough room to jump a fence. Be certain your horse is capable of jumping whatever you head him at. Jumping unnecessary fences (*larking*) is asking for trouble.

Always make sure the horse you are hunting is suitable for your riding ability. Many people think they are better riders than they really are, many people think their horses are more talented than they really are, and some people just don’t know. Get advice from a professional. If you are riding a green horse, don’t over face him. If you can hunt him a lot, do so. There is no better way to make a horse. If you are riding a perfect hunter, you are lucky. Be sure you and your hunter are fit enough for the very active sport that foxhunting is.

Some of the many other details to pay attention to are: Make sure your girth is tight; have the right bit in your horse’s mouth; have your horse shod on a regular basis; be sure your hunt cap fits properly. These are obvious to most people, but it only takes one loose girth or one runaway horse to cause a preventable accident.

Remember that foxhunting is not a competition. It is not a game with a winner and a loser. You don’t need to show off or try to outdo others. Foxhunting is a field sport for everyone to enjoy together in the country with horses and hounds. Hopefully, when the huntsman blows for home, all will be there safe and sound having had a great day.

www.mfha.com