



April 10, 2020

HOW DOES THE ROARING FORK VALLEY HORSE COUNCIL SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY ?

- **Partnering** with the BLM, USFS, CPW, all County and State entities and land managers to develop, protect and sustain horse trail connectivity throughout and beyond the Roaring Fork Valley. We promote kind co-existence between humans and wildlife.
- **Composing** documents, which have become models for all County, State and Federal Government Agencies for future recreational trail planning and design. We support safe, predictable and peaceful trail experiences for all trail users, while mitigating trail conflicts. We promote kind co-existence between humans and our biodiverse habitat creatures.
- **Initiating** guidelines for Cozy Point Ranch improvements founded on equine and human health and safety. Recommendations were developed by survey results from boarders, users and experts. Veterinarians, architects, independent land planners, excavators, university and top equestrian professionals were included in the RFVHC submitted documents to the City of Aspen.
- **Educating** the community about horse health, safety and the value of the horse's unique ability to heal and help humans. We host veterinarian seminars of how to perform standard health exams, reasons to schedule seasonal vaccinations, importance of yearly teeth floating, consistent hoof care every six weeks and "end of life" decisions. We utilize our web site, our Facebook page and experts to discuss the environment, wildfire safety, biodiversity, animal rescue, therapeutic equine programs, trail safety and first aid on trails at our open member meetings.

COVID-19 & BARN SAFETY



Stay at least 6 feet away from other people.

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

Respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby, or on surfaces and objects.



NO
Risk of COVID-19 spread

There is **no evidence at this point** to indicate that pets become ill with COVID-19 or that they spread it to other animals, including people.

YES

Risk of COVID-19 spread

Some commonly used surfaces that should be disinfected at least once a day:

- water and feed buckets
- cross ties, lead ropes
- halters and tack
- grooming supplies
- water taps and hoses
- stall and barn door handles
- wheelbarrow/shovels/broom handles
- frequently touched surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, countertops, etc.



TIPS: Use common sense if you continue to have lessons or boarders at your facility (think "strangles protocol").

Limit the number of people in the barn so they can maintain about 6 feet of distance between them. If riders or boarders are unable or unwilling to do this, you might have to excuse them from lessons or from coming to the barn until the pandemic has passed.

- Encourage boarders and owners to communicate with each other or to create a virtual schedule, to help limit the number of people present in the barn at the same time.

Actively encourage sick people and boarders to stay home.

- Ask boarders and owners to have enough feed (concentrate, hay, and supplements) and bedding for two weeks at the barn; emergency contacts and instructions for care (feed, supplements, medications, exercise, special concerns, etc.) should be written down.

Perform routine environmental cleaning and disinfecting.

- Change the barn hours to allow more time for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Emphasize respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene by all.

Out of an abundance of caution, it is recommended that those ill with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus.

- **Coordinating** land owner agreements to create soft track trail systems in neighborhoods, so horseback riders can stay off road pavement to travel safely and responsibly from ranches and backyards to open space lands. As an example, we are currently working on connecting trails from Strang Ranch - West to Sutey Ranch and Strang Ranch - East to Basalt Mountain – "The Strang Ranch Trail". We help neighbors protect wildlife with winter closures.



Soft track trails are preferable riding surfaces to asphalt and cement.

- **Promoting** equestrian use of the “Rio Grande Trail” right-of-way, which encourages building soft track and equestrian trail connectivity access through the different counties.
- **Advocating** trail access with parking lots for equestrians at the trail heads, and providing horseback friendly gates and signage for clear wayfinding.
- **Restoring** historical equestrian trails. Starting in 2015, RFVHC worked with Pitkin County OST to design the “Glassier Equestrian Trail” to include truck and trailer parking at Hooks Spur Lane and connects to BLM lands on Crown Mountain. In 2017 we continued the project restoring our 12 mile horse and hiker only “Crown Jewel Horse Trail”, which connects across the majestic 9,100 acres of Crown Mountain to the Divide Parking Lot at the top Prince Creek Road and Sopris Creek Road. Our project partners are BLM, Rocky Mt Youth Corps, Round-up Riders of the Rockies, Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, Pitkin County OST and others. This trail offers safe, predictable and peaceful riding experiences on a variety of changing landscapes, including wildflowers, cactus, sage brush, junipers, pinon pines into spruce tree woodlands with breathtaking views. In many places, this two-track trail allows riders to walk side by side for conversation and camaraderie. Special thanks to the “Magnolia Charitable Foundation” for their generous donation.



9,100 acres of the Crown

- **Protecting** wildlife habitats is part of RFVHC land stewardship education. Horseback riders share wilderness and open space lands with creatures that depend upon their biodiverse habitats for survival. The RFVHC partnered with Pitkin County and BLM closing Prince Creek Road and the Sutey Ranch with gates to protect critical winter wildlife habitat.



Giving wildlife much needed protection from human intrusion



All creature great and small

- **Alerting** the community about equine emergency information for wild-fire horse evacuations, injured local equestrians who need assistance, Covid hay bank donations and factual disease data using national and local news sources – we keep our members informed.
- **Sustaining** the RFVHC organization occurs through three revenue opportunities: ticket and merchandise sales from our shared partner events, contributions and governmental grants. By becoming a member; renewing memberships; listing your business on the website directory or making tax deductible donations we support equestrian efforts. Thank you to each of our members, past and future - you will be with us for a lifetime of equestrian improvements in the Roaring Fork Valley.

- **Horseback Trail Riding** is the true essence of our Western Heritage. When we ride our horses across open lands and high country trails we discover the spirit and attraction of the West. We sponsor the Carbondale Wild West Rodeo and we hope to find a Western Heritage Museum site to display ranch memorabilia and items from Anita Witt Estate.



Western Heritage is Alive and Well by “Keeping Horses On Trails”
In the Roaring Fork Valley

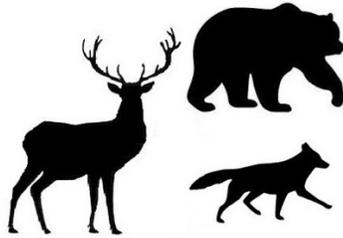
ROARING FORK VALLEY HORSE COUNCIL

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- Producing signage to educate the public about our wildlife and trail safety

Respect the Wildlife and Where They Live

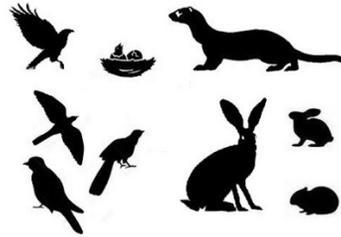
Animals need their Space -
When encountering wildlife
move 400' away.



rfvhorsecouncil.org ©



Stay on the Trail -
Prevent trampling nesting
birds and small mammals.



A biker moving fast or quietly may appear to be a potential predator to a horse... What should I do?

When meeting a horse, dismount and move a safe distance off the trail. If more than one biker, move to the same side of the trail.

Speaking to the rider helps identify you as a person and will help calm a horse.

Bikes, fishing rods, backpacks, and dogs can spook even a seasoned horse when surprised.

TRAIL SAFETY IS BEST FOR EVERYONE

Stop!

Sponsored by the Rafting Fork Valley Horse Council and the Rafting Fork Mountain Bike Association

Signs of what to do when meeting an equestrian on trails

<p>SHARE THE TRAIL</p> <p>TRAIL COURTESY YIELD TO <i>be courteous, be predictable on the trail</i></p>	<p>SHARE THE TRAIL</p> <p>TRAIL COURTESY YIELD TO <i>respect everyone you encounter out there</i></p>	<p>SHARE THE TRAIL</p> <p>TRAIL COURTESY YIELD TO <i>stop, stand back, speak if you meet an equestrian</i></p>
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Trail safety sign produced with partners Pitkin OST, RFMBA for KDNK & Aspen Public Radio and local newspaper education.

- **Networking** offers connectivity on [Facebook.com/keep horses on trails](https://www.facebook.com/keep_horses_on_trails), with over 1,000 followers. [The Equine & Business Services RfVHC Directory Page](https://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org), is a new feature on the [rfvhorsecouncil.org](https://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org), highlighting and advertising equestrian needs.

1. ___ Arenas (design, footing, watering systems, maintenance)
2. ___ Artists (Photographers, painters & sculptors, blacksmiths, art galleries)
3. ___ Associations & clubs
4. ___ Barn and pet sitting
5. ___ Blanket and tack repair & laundry
6. ___ Boarding
7. ___ Building and Construction stables/outbuildings (architecture, design, excavation, contractors)
8. ___ Breeding,
9. ___ Educational opportunities & Human Wellness (clinics, certifications, degree programs, outreach)
10. ___ Equine wellness (veterinarians, chiropractors, massage, dentistry, alternative therapies, rehabilitation)
11. ___ Event Management, horse shows, rodeos, banquets (judges, announcers, jump rentals, rodeo chutes equipment, temporary stalls, concessions, catering, awards)
12. ___ Farriers, horse shoers, blacksmiths
13. ___ Farm and ranch equipment & machinery (dealers, rentals, service & repairs)
14. ___ Farm and ranch management (mowing/haying, weed mitigation, tree maintenance)
15. ___ Feed and supply vendors (feed stores, supplements, bedding, hay, fertilizer, etc.)
16. ___ Fencing (contractors, supplies, repairs)
17. ___ Guest Ranches
18. ___ Horse Rescue
19. ___ Horse sales and rentals
20. ___ Horse and rider TRAINING in all disciplines, colt starting
21. ___ Horse transport, emergency horse transport
22. ___ Irrigation(system design, maintenance, etc.)
23. ___ Legal and business professionals(equine attorneys, appraisers, accountants)
24. ___ Summer Riding Camps for Children
25. ___ Outfitters (trail rides, hunting & pack trips, camping, horses for lease)
26. ___ Ranchers Food Productions
27. ___ Real estate professionals (Realtors, property managers)
28. ___ Saddle fitting
29. ___ Tack & apparel (tack stores, custom items, boot and tack repair)
30. ___ Therapeutic Riding Programs
31. ___ Trailers (dealers, service, rentals)
32. ___ Pest Control
- 32b. ___ Other

A Heart Felt Thank You to all our Business & Equine RfVHC Directory businesses in the Roaring Fork Valley, the best place in the world to live.

Agri-Gas LLC; All Pets Mobile Vet; Alpine Equine Hospital; Bemer; Berthod Motors GMC/Buick Division; Berthod Motors/Equipment Division; Bill Stirling/ Douglas Elliman Real Estate; Blue Horse Equine Design; Capital Peak Outfitters; Carol Dopkin/Engle & Volkers Real Estate; Cedar Ridge Ranch; Coal Creek Farms; Cory Crocker/ Slifer Smith & Frampton; Cozy Point Ranch; Cozy Point Camp; Crystal Springs Ranch and Saddlery; Louisa Davidson Photography; Diamond Arrow Farm; Enhanced Health; Equitarian Initiative; Explore Book Sellers; Four Corners Fencing; Full Circle Farm; Griebel Photography; Glenwood Veterinary Clinic; Happy Landing Ranch; Harris Horsemanship; Heather's Savory Pies & Tapas Basalt; Holmes Excavation and Concrete; Keating Fine Art Gallery; Land+Shelter; Lazy O Ranch; Longacre Equine; Milagro Ranch & Hay; Mountain Primal Meats; Mountain Ranch Management; Natural Vet; Nieslanik Beef; Nieslanik Hay & Horses LLC; OutWest Graphics; Paradise Ranch; Pietrzak Hay; Porter Ranch & Hay; Rachel's Sewing Repair; Ralston Ranch; Riding Institute for Disabled Equestrians(RIDE); Roaring Fork Equine Medical Center; Roaring Fork Valley Co-op; Rocky Mountain School for Massage & Acupressure; Rock E Ricks Farrier Service; Rock Hollow Farm; Rumble Ridge Ranch; St. Benedicts Monastery Hay; Singing Dog Yoga; Snowmass Creek Outfitters; Strang Ranch; Tordoff Farrier; Two Rivers Chiropractic; Valley Mobile Veterinary Practice; Visual West Photography; Wild West Rodeo; Willets Vet; WindWalkers; Woody Creek Distillers; Wolfhill Stables.



- **Supporting** our members during the difficult “end of life” time for their animal partners. When should we decide to let them go? When any animal no longer wants to eat; when they no longer have the strength to get up from the ground; when they are obviously in pain. Owners have a responsibility to plan ahead for them. How will we let them leave this earth with dignity and kindness? Where will we bury them, or will we have them cremated? So many humans hold onto their animal friends past the time of kindness. The decision is a hard reality, so euthanasia is a kind offering for a suffering creature. Go to the **Support Tab** on our website for a member’s testimonial and information about cremation and special remembrance gifts for your dearly departed horses & mules.

*“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened.”
- Anatole France*



Pony Club Chronicles

Sometimes our best intentions are thwarted by our animal partner’s obsession with eating.

- **Enjoying** shared events with members and friends for pot-luck suppers; Kentucky Derby parties; Fall Harvest Tack & Jumble Sales; equine films; dances; horseback rides and BBQs. Members are always welcome to help plan events.

We are proud of growing our partnerships, memberships and support throughout the years - Ascendigo Adult Horseback Riding Program; Carbondale Wild West Rodeo; Colorado Back Country Horsemen; Colorado Horse Council; Colorado Horse Rescue; Colorado West Hunter and Jumper Association (CWHJA); End of The Trail Rescue; Equine Land Conservation Resource; Equitarian Initiative; Riding Institute for Disabled Equestrians (RIDE); Rocky Mountain Dressage Society; Smiling Goat Ranch; Snowmass Rodeo; WindWalkers; U.S. Equestrian Federation; patrons of the “Crown Jewel Horse Trail” and we celebrate **the Roaring Fork Hounds Pony Club's - 2020 - 50th Anniversary!**

We could not work without our community partners - thank you - City of Aspen Open Space & Parks; Pitkin BOCC; OST & Public Works; Town of Basalt; Town of Carbondale; Garfield County BOCC; Garfield County Fairgrounds; Eagle County; Mid Valley Trails; Snowmass Village Recreational Department; Capital Creek Caucus; Emma Caucus; Snowmass Creek Caucus; Woody Creek Caucus; ACES; AVLT; BLM; CPW; Future Forest Roundtable; RFTA; RF Outdoor Volunteers; Wilderness Workshop; Roaring Fork Cycling; RFMBA; USFS; Scenic By Way; West Elk Loop Scenic & Historic Byway Steering Committee; and TrailFinder!

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The Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization