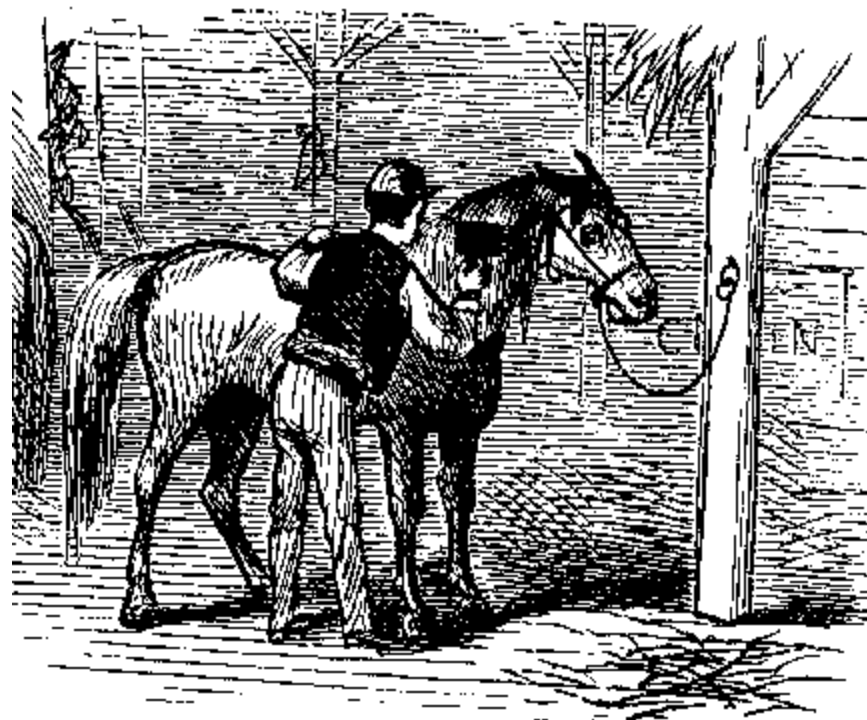


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"So you have decided to ride to hounds, to become a foxhunter. Just what does this involve - what are you getting in for?"

First, remember that foxhunting, like other equestrian sports, is purely for fun, and that the last thing we want is to make our introduction something less than fun. Nevertheless there have to be some do's and don'ts.

When you follow an organized pack of hounds you thereby become a member of a very considerable organization whose activities affect the entire community, (not just you) and that the sport you enjoy is the result of a twelve-months-a-year program, which has been carried on continuously for generations. Your membership in the organization requires you to support this program to the best of your ability.

Your first task is to ride your horse so that you will not be a menace, either to yourself or to others; nor to landowners, crops, fences, hounds, staff, members of the field, and those who follow by car. The hunting field is not a place to school your horse, nor to practice cross-country riding. Follow not only the field master, but also the more experienced members of the field, never lagging behind, and do not leave until you have the field master's permission to do so. The wrong moment, or the wrong route home could spoil the sport of those still hunting.

Having become proficient in Stage One, you can then proceed toward Stage Two which means making yourself useful. Gates need to be opened and closed, rails lowered and replaced, errands performed if the Master so requests. In order to show sport a hundred different activities are required, from maintaining and improving landowner relations, to organizing fund-raising events.

Finally, you can advance to Stage Three in which you are not only safe and useful, but also knowledgeable. Foxhunting is distinguished from other types of cross-country riding by the presence of hounds, and it is the understanding and appreciation of how hounds work, with occasional

help from the huntsman and whippers-in, which when achieved, will make you worthy to be called a foxhunter. There is much to be learned from books, and from conversation with those who have already arrived, but your education can only be completed through actual experience. This could start by walking out with the pack on foot during the summer so that you recognize each individual hound, and its particular characteristics; or by watching and listening intently during the cub hunting season as the young hounds are entered; by noting the problems posed by the wiles of the fox, by weather, terrain, livestock, machinery; and by observing how hounds solve these problems.

Once you have achieved Stage Three, foxhunting will take on an entirely new dimension, over and above galloping and jumping, while exciting and challenging, becomes secondary. The measure of what makes for an outstanding day, changes from speed across country, to the success with which hounds surmounted the conditions encountered; to the way they worked together as a pack; and to the prowess of individual hounds in performing such feats as carrying the line down a half mile of tarred road."

The preceding was an excerpt from
"Foxhunting in North America"

Author: *Mr. Alexander McKay-Smith, MFH*

Herewith follows the basic precepts for proper decorum in the hunting field. Whilst they are classified as manners and etiquette, they are actually matters of safety, to which members of the field will be required to adhere. They will be enforced by the field master, and no exceptions will be made.

These rules and regulations, when properly observed, will create a safe and pleasant day for everyone.

Going to The Meet:

1. Travel along the roads and never ride through the country without the express permission of a Master when hacking to the meet. You run the risk of moving a fox, and spoiling a day's sport.
2. Arrive at least fifteen minutes before the scheduled time. Be sure to present yourself to a Master, and greet him with a warm "Good Morning". Observe the arrival of huntsman and hounds, and stay well out of the way of them.

Arrival at the Meet:

1. In regard to your trailer, try not to sweep off manure or shavings and straw. If some should spill out, please clean it up, and remove all signs of your presence before you leave for the day. If you don't do it, a landowner or someone else will have to do it, and friendly thoughts of you will be lacking!
2. At the conclusion of the day, bid the Masters "Good Night", and be sure to thank them for the day's sport.
3. A "thank you" to the huntsman and staff after hunting is also appreciated, though usually they are too busy to give back a lengthy acknowledgment.
4. Before you invite a guest, be sure to have the permission of a Master in advance. At the meet, introduce him or her to the Masters, and see to the capping fee and the liability waiver with the field secretary before hounds move off. Remain with your guest in the field, and introduce him or her 'round. Ride with your guest, and remember that your guest is your responsibility.

Moving off and in the Field:

1. Move off promptly in the proper order, keeping a safe distance of two horse lengths behind the horse in front of you. Never run into, or over, or past the horse ahead of nor alongside of you. The horse ahead of you should never be used as a "bumper" nor as a braking device! Pass only if you have asked permission, and it has been granted. If you can not, or will not control your horse, you'd best be home knitting.
2. When taking a jump, make certain that the person ahead has landed safely on the far side before you take off.
3. Horses that kick must wear a red ribbon in the tail, and be ridden in the back of the field.
4. Persons mounted on horses which might jeopardize the safety or enjoyment of others will be excused from the field
5. There will be no smoking in the field.
6. Do not ride up to a whipper-in and attempt to converse with him.
7. Never interfere with, nor threaten a hound by any action. Hounds always have the right of way. The cardinal sin in the hunting field is for a horse to either ride over or kick a hound. It is bad enough to kick another horse, but to kick a hound is inexcusable. Offenders may be excused from the field.
8. Please refrain from talking when hounds are drawing a covert, or trying to pick up a lost line, in order to avoid distracting the hounds. Best not to call to, interfere with, nor attempt to aid in the control of hounds unless specifically asked to do so by the Huntsman, Master, or member of staff.

9. When you hear "ware staff, Huntsman, hounds," etc., move quickly off the path, so that staff or hounds may get through rapidly. Be sure to keep your horse's head faced into the path, as the oncoming traffic comes through. This also applies when the fieldmaster is reversing direction.
10. The cry "ware hound" means beware that a hound is coming up from behind, so you must exercise extreme care.
11. Do not school horses over fences which are not taken by the field. In other words, do not jump fences unnecessarily. Think of the embarrassment should you come to grief.
12. Please ride to the edges of all seeded and crop fields. Never trod upon someone's lawn. Landowners, especially farmers have been known to express considerable anger, and the wrath of a farmer is not a pretty sight.
13. Every person is responsible for keeping all gates and barways secured, and back to their original position. Repair any broken fence as well as possible, and report it immediately to the field master, or a member of staff. Unless there is an emergency, never cut wire fences, and make sure livestock cannot escape.
14. If you wish to leave early, be sure to do so without interfering with the work of the hounds or the Huntsman. If you cannot reach the field master to ask permission, then at least make sure word reaches him that you have left. Hack home either on a road, or through country hounds have already "made good". (already hunted)
15. Landowners property should be treated with utmost respect, and landowners themselves should be greeted in a friendly manner whenever encountered.

16. Please keep in mind that we are able to hunt over our lovely country due to the kindness and generosity of a large number of individual landowners. Their permission can be revoked at any time, should the hunt or any of our members abuse our privileges, or offend our hosts.
17. Should anyone have a complaint about manners in the field, please bring it to the attention of the field master. He is patient person, but his word is the law.
18. Any member or guest who remains consistently inconsiderate of others, exhibits bad manners, is rude, or constitutes an element of danger to others, will be asked to leave the field.

Turn Out: the Horse:

1. Your horse should be clean, no manure spots, nor shavings in the tail. He must have a neatly pulled mane, braided for opening meet. Above all, he should be "hunting fit".
2. Your tack should be "squeaky" clean, and in safe condition. Use a martingale if your horse requires it, and a strong enough bit to provide adequate "braking power" if and when you need it. If you are driving a car, the prudent driver would never use the car in front as a "bumper" to stop.
3. Remember, "less is better". If you don't need bandages, don't use them. Above all, never use polo wraps ... they are a menace.
4. For your vocabulary: a "crop is what a farmer grows, not what you carry to encourage your horse. Maybe a riding bat, or a jumping bat?"

Turn Out: The Rider:**The Masters offer the following guidelines on attire while foxhunting:**

We endeavor to respect the long standing traditions of foxhunting [see “Riding to Hounds in America” by William P. Wadsworth] as well as recognizing the reality of enforcing etiquette on members that are just learning our sport, hunt infrequently or are changing size.

For early cubhunting season [August]:

In consideration of the early season heat, we allow the field to wear green polo shirts [no jacket]; light colored britches; ventilated helmets and half chaps.

For the balance of cubhunting [ratcatcher]:

1. The **MOST PROPER** Ratcatcher attire is black or brown velvet covered hunt cap; conservatively colored [but not white] long or short sleeved shirt with collar and neck tie or colored stock tie or ratcatcher collar with plain stock pin; tan, beige or rust britches; brown or black field boots; tweed or tan hunt coat. Ladies please remember your hair net and gentlemen please remember to use your razor [even though it is early in the morning]. Your horse and tack are an important part of your turnout, they should be clean and in good condition reflecting regular care.
2. It **IS ACCEPTABLE** to substitute black “tall” boots if you do not own field boots. This is the 21st century and technology has provided many advances in “integrated boot systems”. We will also accept an appropriately colored integrated boot and half chap system [like Ariat or others, not suede], especially for our junior riders.

3. It is **NOT ACCEPTABLE** to wear ventilated helmets, suede half chaps [of any type], “top” boots, colored lenses in eyewear or other modern conveniences.

Formal season commences on “Opening Day”.**The MOST PROPER formal season attire is:****for ladies, gentlemen and juniors:**

Black velvet covered hunt cap [“ribbons up” unless staff]; white or conservatively colored hunt shirt with white stock tie [plain stock pin in horizontal position]; canary waistcoat; beige britches; plain black boots [without laces]; black hunt coat.

For ladies with colors:

as above but hunt colors sewn on collar and engraved buttons on black hunt coat. Black patent tops on boots.

For gentlemen with colors [and female staff]:

also as above but with red hunt coat with hunt colors sewn on collar and engraved brass buttons on hunt coat [three buttons on front unless staff]. White britches and brown tops on boots.

For juniors with colors:

also as above but with junior colors [green piping] on collar only regardless of gender.

Please help us present The Old Chatham Hunt as a respectful coherent group to our landowners and our community.

General:

1. Visitors from other hunts may wear colors only by invitation from the Masters.
2. When visiting another hunt, colors may be worn only by invitation from that Master.

3. Evening dress for gentlemen [with colors], by tradition, is scarlet tails, yellow silk facing, green collar, and engraved brass buttons.
4. Evening dress for ladies is to be a full length gown [never red unless worn by a Master].

Very Cold Weather or Rain:

1. After the close of formal season, or on a rainy day, at the discretion of the Masters, however, any rain gear or heavy winter coat (jacket) should be of dark material. A Barbour coat, for instance, but not ever bright colors.
2. Keep warm and/or dry, but stay as close to traditional dress as possible.

Hunt Breakfast:

1. Instead of flinging off every vestige of your hunting attire to attain a relaxed mode, keep your clothes on, and maintain respect for your hosts.
2. Change to a hacking jacket if you like, wipe off your boots, but keep them on. Never remove your tie, stock tie, nor vest, nor roll up your shirt sleeves.
3. The above applies especially to juniors.
4. Attire at Hunt breakfasts should be appropriate to the hunting attire of the season.

Precedence in the field:

1. The field Master, gentlemen and ladies with colors; Juniors with colors; gentlemen and ladies without colors.
2. Visitors to ride where they are invited to ride, and dependent upon their skill.
3. Members should accord visitors utmost consideration.
4. Senior members take precedence over younger members
5. By all means, keep up. If you lag behind, the entire field could become lost.

6. If you have a refusal at a fence, immediately turn away, get to the side, and let the field go on.
7. If there should be a fall or crash, be sure that someone is lending assistance to the fallen or injured one, but then go on. The entire field milling round is not only unnecessary, but dangerous.
8. If a member of the field dismounts for any reason only the person or persons qualified to render assistance should remain. The rest of the field should move on quickly.
9. Above all, be of good cheer despite the sheer terror you may harbor deep within.

The Field Master:

1. The field master is responsible for all aspects of the safety, comfort and enjoyment of the field. Honor his requests and mandates.
2. Do not ride alongside the field master unless specifically invited by him to do so.
3. Do not engage the field master in conversation unless he initiates that conversation. He has a job to do, and must not be distracted. His eyes and ears must remain attached to the Huntsman, and the hounds.
4. It is best not to criticize, nor make any suggestions. Do not "second guess" him. Offer him assistance and directions only if he requests same.
5. Conduct yourself as if you were riding behind a Master.
6. Remember that the field master has been designated by the Masters to lead the field. Therefore, no matter what your perception of his ability to do this, in his selection of trails, his way through the country, his choice of position or location, no matter what, never outguess him, never ride past him, never ride alongside him, and

never offer advice unless he specifically asks for it. Your suggestions maybe contrary to the plan of the draw.

Traffic/Motorists:

1. Greatest consideration should be afforded to motorists. They should be greeted warmly with a wave, and thanked for their courtesies.
2. Move aside immediately when cars approach, everyone to be on the same side of the road.
3. No motorist should be held up by the field, nor by the ground support person, unless a threatening or dangerous situation exists.
4. Staff, including ground support personnel, should never hold traffic for the field unless hounds are in "full cry" or "gone away".
5. Quote from the New York State Drivers' Manual: "Horse back riders are subject to, and protected by, the rules of the road. In addition, they must ride single file near the right curb or the road edge, or on a usable right shoulder, lane, or path."

"The law requires you (as a driver) to exercise due care when approaching a horse being ridden or led along a road. You must drive at a reasonable speed, a reasonable distance away from the horse. It is illegal to sound your horn when approaching or passing a horse."

Roading:

1. The purpose of roading hounds is solely for the benefit of hounds and staff. It is not the right of the membership to participate, and permission should be secured from the Masters and/or the Huntsman to do so.

Guests, as always, must receive permission from a Master each time they wish to ride.

2. Roading is not for the purpose of schooling green horses, though it is a good way to introduce them to hounds.
3. The same etiquette prevails during roading, especially no loud talking or unnecessary conversation.
4. There should be no unnecessary passing nor winding forward amidst the field.
5. The pejorative of the field master will prevail.

Cub Hunting:

1. Cub Hunting is purely the business of the Masters and Staff and for the benefit of hounds and staff.
2. Do not expect a lot of galloping and jumping.
3. The pace will be determined by the huntsman in concert with the Masters, and totally for the benefit of the young entry.
4. Non-members may cub hunt by invitation, subject to the approval of the Masters.
5. The member-host should plan to ride with the guest, or make arrangements for someone to look out for him or her.

The Three Fields:

A few words about field organization - we will vary the number of fields available to ride in once cubhunting commences [depending on number of riders on any particular day]:

1. The first field is for those comfortable going at varied to fast speeds over all types of terrain [whatever is required to keep up - safely - with hounds]. It is acceptable for those wishing to ride with first field but not to jump all obstacles to ride towards the rear. If you are riding nearer the front and refuse any obstacle it is considered

common courtesy to move further to the rear to allow others to move on while you attempt to negotiate the obstacle again or use the go-around. Under no circumstances should you use any go-around if there are riders following you that intend to jump.

2. Second field is for those that would prefer to go at a more measured pace that will pick and choose their jumps. Otherwise the same comments apply.
3. Third field will be offered periodically at the discretion of The Masters. Otherwise known as “Hilltopping”, riders should be capable of riding at a walk, trot and light canter. While no jumping is required you should be comfortable negotiating natural changes in terrain and small logs or other obstacles that may be encountered.
4. Please note that it is considered proper to request permission from your field master [whoever they might be that day] to move from one field to another. Each rider has the personal responsibility to notify their field master if they need to return to their trailer early to ensure that they do not interfere with hounds on the way back.

The traditions of foxhunting are largely responsible for its unique flavor as a sport and, for the most, part have remained unchanged for over 200 years.

Good luck, and good sport.

Your Past and Present Masters

Hunting

Do's and Don'ts for Pony Clubbers

Fox hunting's our sport
and we'll all have more fun
if we each know beforehand
what's "being done."

Lets all be dressed in proper attire
so that our Hunt field will be one to admire.
And girls — hair nets please — your flowing tresses
are not for hunting — but for party dresses.

Don't arrive to hunt in an awful state.
It's not being done to get there late.
If you hack to the meet,
remember the rule —
allow time to be prompt
with your horse nice and cool.

Go speak to the Master.
And boys doff your caps.
Good manners are fun
so don't let them lapse.
To warn those behind you
that your horse likes to kick,
tie a red ribbon in his tail —
it'll do the trick.

Don't sit there and chatter at Covertside
or you wont be welcome the next time they ride.
But hark to the music the good hounds make
that you might learn quickly the course they will take.

Don't dash by others
at a fast going pace.
This is a foxhunt
not a horse race.

Don't speak to a hound
if he passes close
'cause he's working hard
with his sharp little nose.

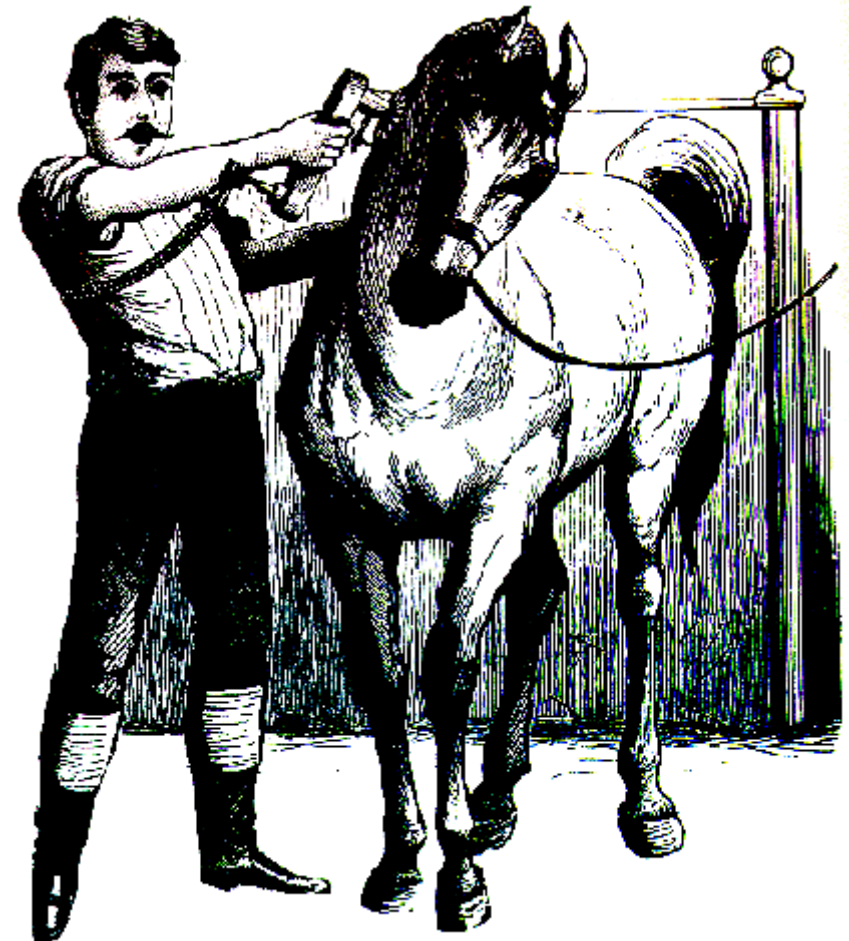
When you come to a fence, I'm sure it's not news
that the horse in front of you just might refuse.
So allow time for this and for crying out loud
when you come to a fence — Oh, please don't crowd!
And remember when taking a jump, if your horse refuses
just turn aside without making excuses.
Await your turn 'til the others have passed,
then try again, even though you are last.
Since hunting's a sport you must ride your best
but sportsmanship counts, it's not a contest.

Since you can't ride or hunt
without a good horse,
you care for your mount
as a matter of course.

When the hunt is all over
you rest him awhile
and on your way home you
WALK THE LAST MILE



AU REVOIR



Foxhunting Formalities

Notes

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