

# HANDBOOK FOR NEW DRIVERS.

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FEDERAL CONVENOR FOR PLEASURE AND ENDURANCE

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## **Get to know your horse**

### **Be able to touch your horse anywhere.**

1. **GROOMING** This provides a good chance to bond with your horse and thoroughly check him over for any cuts and bruises.
2. **CLEAN EACH HOOF.** Not foot, no horse is true. By picking up each foot and cleaning out the hoof, allows you to check the shoes are on tight, and there are no stones imbedded in the sole of the foot which could cause stone bruising.

**RUBBING** or massaging him with your fingers helps you get in touch with your horse. Use a circular movement, and keep moving over the body, using your finger tips. If he pulls away he is probably sore in that area. It is a good thing to do before and after you work your horse.

### **Keep a check on your horse's health.**

1. **HEART RATE** Learn to listen to your horse's heart rate and know what his resting rate is, so if he gets sic you can pass on this information to the vet when you ring him.
2. **TEMPERATURE** Learn to take your horse's temperature. This is a skill you need if your horse looks sick and is one of the bits of information which would be handy when ringing the vet.
3. **RESPIRATION** Learn where to find the respiration of a horse.
4. **GUT SOUNDS** You can use a stethoscope to listen to the gut sound in your horses stomach, the lack of sound is very serious, your horse could be dehydrated.
5. **DENTIST TO CHECK TEETH** The teeth should be checked at least once a year by an equine dentist and the sharp bits filed off. It does not hurt the horse and will make his mouth more comfortable when you drive him.

*There should be a regular TPR School in your state to learn these skills, or refresh them.*

### **Exercise your horse.**

**LUNGING IN A ROUND YARD.** By doing this in an enclosed area helps you to exercise your horse and check the pace for lameness, can be seen as the horse tosses his head when a sore foot hits the ground.

**LEADING** Teach him to lead out side your house yard and so introduce him to things you may encounter driving, with you right next to him for support.

### **Feed according to the work your horse does.**

**CHALF** - Hay, grass and chalf should be the base of all feeds you provide for your horse. Feed the amount your horse need for his size and work he is doing.

**GRAINS AND PELLETS** - These give your horse extra energy for work. If you wish to include these into his feed, start with a small amount and only increase if his work increases. A horse with lots of energy from his feed can be hard to control for a new driver. If he has the day of from work, reduce the grains or pellets.

**WATER** – This should always be available for your horse. If your horse drinks from a dam, you may find when you take him away to an event he will not drink the town water from a bucket. He is use to the taste of the dirt in the dam, so take some dirt from near the dam and mix with the water so it tastes the same as his dam. You may need to let the water stand for a few hours so the chemicals in the water evaporate.

**MINERAL BLOCK** Australian soils need to have minerals added before planting, such as lime, sulphur, copper, magnesium, zinc, potassium to name a few to produce a healthy crop. All life needs these minerals to live a healthy life. They each have a function, e.g. the calcium found in dolomite is needed for bone growth, normal heart function, blood coagulation. If you provide your horse with a mineral horse lick they will eat it when they need it.

*Recommended reading- Pat Coleby Natural Horse Care*

## **Starting to drive your horse.**

### **Able to harness a single horse unaided.**

1. **TIEING UP** Tie the horse up on short lead so that the horse does not move around as you harness. Make sure that you secure your horse to immovable object. Ask a club member to help you teach you horse if it moves around too much. Make sure the rope is strong, if the horse breaks free with a vehicle attached the horse could injure itself, injure people, damage the vehicle and other vehicles as it bolts to escape.
2. **STARTING TO HARNESS** Most people start by putting the saddle on, but if you have a horse that likes to nip or cow kick as you are doing up the girth, you should put the blinkers on first so they can't see to aim and tie him up short so he can't turn his head to nip.
3. **HARNESS** Adjust your harness to fit. It is best to have a club member to show you for the first few times. A badly fitting harness will rub a horse causing girth galls, or removing skin from under traces, collars, back straps. If a horse is in pain he will try to avoid work, which will hurt him, so he may rear up, run backwards or kick.
4. **BITS** All horses must wear a bit while being driven. Find out which bit suits your horse. The kinder the bit the softer the mouth and so the horse is more responsive when you ask it to do something. If you have a hard mouthed horse you need to choose the bit that suits.
5. **SQUARING UP** - Make sure the horse is standing square to the vehicle, you may need to push it's rump over to achieve this. Horses can be taught to square up, with a voice command "Square up," as you push it to the correct position, then a reward of a pat as it gets there. The horse will associate squaring up with the voice command.
6. **PUTTING THE VEHICLE ON-** Talk to your horse as you bring the shafts over the rump, let him know where you are by keeping in contact with your hand and talking to him. Slide the shafts up to the tug stops, feed the traces under the belly band, along the shaft and through the trace holders to the swindle bar. Attach securely. There are many different types of attachments and you need to seek advice on how yours attaches.
7. **GETTING IN-** Make sure you and your groom have on your safety gear; Australian approved helmet, driving gloves with a good grip, whip of the correct length for you horse. The whip should reach your horse's shoulder when you are seated. Ask your groom to stand at the horses head while you get in. Take up the reins, get comfortable. Join the ends and put them in the middle of the seat, then sit on the ends in case you drop one rein as you drive. Ask your groom to let your horse go and get in. Make sure your horse will stand still as your groom gets in.

**NEVER LEAVE A HARNESSSED HORSE UNATTENDED.** If he gets a fright, he could pull back, break the lead rope and bolt through the camp with his vehicle still attached. The horse or vehicle is very likely to hit people, other vehicles etc as well as frightening every horse that comes in sight of your bolting horse.

### **Able to unharness a single horse unaided**

1. **TIE UP** - Drive up to hitching post, and ask your groom to get out and tie up your horse.
2. **GETTING OUT** - When your horse is secure you can get out, still holding the reins until you have the vehicle off.
3. **UNHARNESS** in the reverse order that you harnessed up. Never take the reins, or bridle off while the horse is still attached to the vehicle.

**HOSE THE SWEAT OFF** your horse to get rid of salt left on the skin from sweat, wipe off extra water to remove heat from the body, and help to dry faster.

### **Able to long rein pony / horse safely at a walk and trot in a round yard.**

1. **TIE UP** In a round yard so the horse cannot get away from you. The horse needs to be use to lunging before you long rein. An open bridle can be helpful doing long reining.
2. **HARNESS UP** your horse, but do not put the traces or breast collar on.
3. **ATTACH BREECHING STRAPS** to false belly band. You may need an extra strap or baling twine to reach. When you leave all the breeching gear on the horse gets use to working with all the gear on, and it makes it quicker to put him in the vehicle after long reining.
4. **REINS THROUGH TUGS** By putting your reins lower to start with, your horse is less able to

spin around and face you

5. **LET YOUR HORSE OFF** Put on your gloves, take up your whip and reins, let your horse off and walk to one side.
6. **STAND TO ONE SIDE** Ask your horse to walk off in a circle around you, keeping even pressure on both reins.
7. **WALK WITH YOUR HORSE** Move around with your horse to keep an even pressure and so you don't have to keep changing the length of the reins.
8. **LOWER THE HEAD** If you milk the reins (*squeezing each rein alternately*) the horse will lower its head to a comfortable position.
9. **MOVE TO BEHIND THE HORSE** Gradually move to a position behind the horse. He might try to turn and face you, so at this point you may ask your groom to lead him until he is used to the idea.
10. **CHANGE DIRECTIONS** Walk your horse across the middle of the round yard until he is near the other side. Start indicating before the fence, talk to him. Some people say "COME RIGHT" as they indicate with the reins. Then turn him to the right.
11. **FINISHING** After you have driven your horse for 15 -20 minutes you can turn him towards the hitching post and get him to stop. Walk up to him talking and stroke him as you tie him up.
12. **USE AS WARM UP.** This can be used as a warm up before putting to a vehicle, or later to correct problems you are having in the vehicle such as standing still, standing square, backing up, turning, falling in, head position, etc.

**TROTTING** All of the above movements can be done at a trot, but you need to be fit enough to keep up with him, or do everything on a circle, with you on the inside.

#### **Able to long rein pony / horse safely at a walk in an enclosed area eg. Paddock, club grounds etc.**

1. **START IN THE ROUND YARD** Follow all of the above steps and do about 10 minutes in the round yard before your groom opens the gate into a larger enclosed area.
2. **WALK IN STRAIGHT LINES** Practice walking in straight lines, half circles and circles.
3. **INTRODUCE HORSE TO NEW THINGS.** Show him the cones and course markers with a groom holding him to start with, as it will give him more confidence.

**Gradually increase** the size of the area you work in.

#### **Able to put a pony / horse into and out of a vehicle in an enclosed area.**

1. Follow the steps above for harnessing and unharnessing.

Gradually increase the size of the area.

#### **Able to drive pony / horse safely at a walk in an enclosed area eg. Paddock, club grounds etc.**

1. Follow the steps above for harnessing.
2. **YOUR GROOM MUST BE AN EXPERIENCED DRIVER.** When you first start out driving.
3. **SECOND SET OF REINS** These will be helpful for beginners, so that your experienced groom can take over in an emergency.
4. **MOVEMENTS FROM LONG REINING** Go through all the lessons you did with Long reining at a walk.

**STOP ON A GOOD MOVEMENT** Don't keep driving him until he hates driving. If you have achieved your goal in 30 minutes, stop and give him a break.

#### **Able to negotiate pony or horse in a vehicle at a walk and trot a set of cones or other obstacles such as barrels, in an enclosed area.**

1. Do all the above with a set of cones or other obstacles such as barrels.

**Before taking your horse on the road**

1. Expose your horse to a range of things that you may encounter out on the road.
  - An umbrella opened.
  - Dogs suddenly barking.
  - Wheelie Bins and traffic cones.
  - Dogs or animals out of sight making noise.
  - Plastic bags flapping in the wind.
  - Flapping bunting or clothes.
  - Livestock moving behind fences. Including smell of livestock.
  - Sound of wheels and hooves on gravel, cement, wooden bridges or tar.
  - Water splashing on their legs from a puddle.
  - Going through water - Puddles.
  - Walkers, joggers, cyclists and motorists sharing the road way.
  - Driving past road signs.
  - Driving over white or yellow painted lines on the ground.
2. Repeat as many times as it takes for your horse to not react, that is flight or fight. Practice standing still. This is to prepare for waiting to cross the road at an intersection.

**On the road for the first time.** Quiet road

1. Work your horse regularly before taking him out in public.
2. Go in company of members with quiet horses.
3. Have an experience driver with you.
4. Fluro vest if you are going out on the road
5. Keep your attention focused on the horse, avoid getting distracted.
6. Have a sign on the back indicating you are a beginner. E.g. L plates or sign saying PASS WIDE AND SLOW. Then motorist or cyclists, will hopefully not zoom past.
7. Plan a short and safe route the first few times. No surprises.
8. Travel at a walk and allow your horse time to take everything in.
9. Use the other quiet horses to instill courage in your horse. They take the lead.
10. Show the horse things they are unsure of and then move on. Watch your horse's ears and other body language to find out his mood and where his attention is focused.
11. Your horse may not go over the white lines on the road the first time, but aim to get near them. After a few drives he will ignore them totally.
12. If you go back the same way as you came out, be aware that the horse is now looking at a whole new route from their point of view, so they see things at a different angle. He may get a fright from something he had not seen when driving out. I had a new horse that shied at her own manure she had dropped going out.

Always walk the last kilometer home, so they don't get use to racing home. Use this time to cool down.

**On the road with other road users.** In traffic.

1. Read the road rules below for carriage driving.
2. Be aware that horse shoes do slip on tar at times. So plan your change of pace and direction. Walk down hills, walk around corners, stop at intersections.
3. Learn to drive one handed for 15 seconds while giving hand signal.
4. A Club Pleasure drive in traffic may need a support vehicle at the front and back with signage indicating horse drawn vehicles.
5. If you see a hazard ahead plan what you are going to do before you get there.
6. At all times be courteous to other road users.
7. Always take care when passing another vehicle and only do so when you can see a clear path in front. Ask permission to pass, as the other horse may not like other horses moving up from behind. Never pass at a fast trot.

Don't drive too close to the vehicle in front.

### **Road rules regarding carriage driving.** (From RTA handbook.)

1. **CARRIAGES ARE CONSIDERED VEHICLES.** In Australia horses whether, ridden or driven are considered as a vehicle and are subject to the same road rules as apply to other drivers. Eg Give way at T intersections, stop at stop signs, keep to the left and single file.
2. **NATURE STRIPS** .Horses are allowed to use the footpaths and nature strips, unless specifically prohibited. Note; often there is not enough room for a horse drawn vehicle on the foot path, so use commonsense.
3. **NO DRIVING TWO ABREAST.**If you are riding two abreast with another rider you must not ride more than 1.5 m apart. This will allow other road users room to overtake. Two vehicles driving abreast would take up too much of the road so, it is not recommended unless over taking.
4. **OVERTAKING** Let the other driver know you intend to pass. **Do Not** over take on hills, bends or where you don't have a clear line of sight of the road ahead.
5. **LIGHTS ON CARRIAGES** When driving at night or in conditions of poor visibility the vehicle must display a white light on each side of the front of the vehicle and a red light on the rear, visible for 200mt. Red reflectors to the rear of each side of the vehicle.
6. **DON'T LEAD FROM A CAR.** A person must not lead an animal while driving a motor vehicle. That is you cannot hold the horse, while driving a car.
7. **HAND SIGNALS.** Always remember to signal to other traffic before stopping or turning. Give way to traffic where required. Drivers sit on the right hand side of the vehicle in Australia. A right hand turn is right hand straight out. Left hand is right hand up, which also means you are going to stop, the driver behind you will know you are going to change pace or direction by these hand signals.
8. **INDICATE TO PASS** Some motorists idle their cars behind you which can be un-nerving for your horse, indicate with waving your right hand to pass when it is safe to do so. Help the motorist by moving to the left to give them room.

**NO MOBILE USE WHILE DRIVING.** This is a road rule for everyone in control of a vehicle. Stop the vehicle before talking or get your groom to speak.

### **Information relating safety with carriage driving**

1. Check your harness and vehicle regularly for wear and damage and have repairs done by a competent person.
2. Persons under 18 years must wear a safety helmet approved for equestrian use while in a carriage.
3. Always carry a spare halter and lead rope. Extra things could include; rope, a leather punch and a pocket knife.

Always carry a whip, and learn to use it as an aid in place of your legs when riding.

## **Beginning Dressage driving**

### **Why do we do dressage?**

Dressage has a set of movements, which get harder as you work through the levels of tests. These tests require good control and communication with your horse to perform these tests accurately. By doing these tests in front of judges you will receive a score and comment on how well you drove each movement. Please don't compare with other drivers, but compare with your last test to look for improvements or areas to work on.

A simple test will be just straight lines, large circles, corners and a halt, but later these circles get smaller and one handed, the straight lines have deviations and the halts have 5 step rein backs.

Think of it as a way of progressing with your skills and having someone give you feedback.

Enter Driven Dressage Days so you can choose a level which suits you.

The object of the Driven Dressage test is to judge the freedom, regularity of paces, harmony, impulsion, suppleness, lightness, ease of movement and correct bending of horses on the move.

### **Information relating Dressage Driving.**

1. Get a dressage manual downloaded from the Federal web site or the state site.
2. Go to some dressage tests and watch the novice and beginner classes.
3. Look at the easiest tests to learn. Preliminary 1 & 2 tests, followed by AA, BB, CC. You need to start with these tests, and master this level before attempting anything harder.
4. You could colour code the drawings, then laminate them and fix them to your dash board while driving the tests at home.
5. Set up a dressage arena in your lounge room with paper cups marked with the dressage letters.
6. Learn the position of the dressage letters on the arena, HEK I forgot the MBF is a good way to remember the major letters used in the easy tests. You enter at A and the head judge is a C. X is in the middle.
5. At a competition you should remember the test without the cheat sheet, but you are allowed a caller but you will lose 10 points. It may be worth losing the ten points and not eliminated.

### **Prepare your horse for dressage.**

1. Put in the time to train your horse on the arena, at home or your local showground etc.
2. Vary your route, only do 15 minutes on the dressage arena to start with, because dressage takes thinking on your part as well as the horse.
3. Build up the time you drive your horse, dressage on a grassed arena is hard work, because executing the turns on grass makes it heavier going than on hard ground.
4. Get your horse use to being washed, plaited, brushed and generally getting jazzed up.
5. Get your horse shod, they protect the feet and can help balance a horse, a good farrier can correct problems like the back foot clipping the front foot.
6. Clip if needed. Trim bridle path.
7. Take time to socialize your horse at club gatherings, because you don't want your horse playing up because he hasn't seen a lot of other vehicles.

### **Prepare your Vehicle for dressage.**

1. Check that the wheel widths are correct for your class height.
2. Check the vehicle has everything working, brakes, no rattles or other noises.
3. Check that no bolts etc are loose.
4. Wheels oiled and running smoothly.

Vehicle clean, paintwork O.K. Brass or chrome polished, seats buffed.

### **Correct behavior as you arrive for dressage.**

1. Be on time, get to the venue early, have plenty of time to unload.
2. Look at the dressage arena, check out how to get there from your float, check if you are to see the steward at A or go to the head judge.
3. Walk the test if you have time before any tests have begun. Take note of the size of the circles. *At CDEs and Dressage Championships you will need to be in full dressage attire as well as carry your whip, gloves and apron and wear your hat.*
4. Harness your horse and have someone unclip you. Headstall can stay on for club events but must be removed for competitions.
5. Go warm up your horse by walking.

Don't drive near the dressage arena, while another driver is doing a dressage test.

### **Correct behavior at the arena.**

1. **Greet** the steward or judge as you arrive.
2. **Listen** to instructions from steward or judge.
3. **Bell** The judge will ring the bell or toot the car horn to indicate he or she is ready to watch you drive. You have 60 seconds in which to enter the arena, this is a long time so don't rush, enter the arena as straight as possible.

4. **Halt at X** means that your horse's head must be over the X mark, a side judge will be able to see this. It is more difficult for the judge at C which is the other end of the arena to be able to see this. This judge would have walked the arena and picked out something such as a bare patch of ground or white markings on the ground to help locate X.
5. **Entry Salute** – Men tip their hat, take it off with their right hand, take it to the side bow the head and replace it. Ladies bring you right hand holding the whip up to the hat, with the whip horizontal to the hat and nod your head once.
6. **Corners** Beginners are not expected to go deep into the corners.
7. **Pace** – You are not expected to do all the set paces to start with but you should show some attempt.
8. **Rhythm** Keep the horse going at an even rate. No surging forward, or slowing down.
9. **Transitions** These change of pace should be done as your horse's nose reaches the marker, but you should be preparing him for this change of pace a few meters before this point. E.g. Transition from working trot to walk, talk to your horse to gain attention, the word STEADY for my horse means slow down, pressure on the reins to slow, and just before the point say WALK. Be careful he does not come to a full stop.
10. **Straight lines** \_Look at a point to which you are aiming and drive towards it.
11. **Circles** Know the dimensions of your circle before you drive the test, know where the markers are for each point of the circle. This is where walking the arena before the test pays off. Make sure the circle is round.
12. **Final Halt/ Rein back.** This change of pace like all others needs to be prepared for a few paces before the halt. Aim to halt square, facing the judge at C. Maintain the halt, count for the required time. If there is a rein back, count each step, when complete. Ask your horse to move forward, but don't rush it.

**Final Salute** In front of the judge at C , your horse's head level with the two side markers, halt and salute the judge, the judge will get out and salute you back, at which time you may leave the arena through A. It is good manners to salute any side judges as you trot down the side of the arena.

## **On the road to CDE's**

CDE'S are quite a lot of fun and tests your horse's training in three main areas. Dressage is competition A which is held first, the Marathon and obstacles is Competition B and the Cones is Competition C. At most CDEs the cones course is usually held straight after the dressage test, and the next day is the Marathon.

Before you go to your first CDE you can learn how to do each of the elements, at home and at club training days or at One Hour CDEs or Fun days.

## **Beginning Cones and Obstacle Driving**

Driving at a club cones or games day can be lots of fun for you and your horse. It also can be dangerous if you do not have complete control of your horse. A horse can get excited when you drive him fast. Often on and around the course are new sights and sounds that could upset the horse and he may take off. I was penciling at a cones course when the four posted shade we were sitting under blew away as the competitor drove past. The horse and driver were both experienced and the driver kept control of the horse, while the course was rebuilt.

**Able to negotiate pony or horse in a vehicle at a trot through a set of cones or other obstacles such as barrels, in an enclosed area without error at a walk. No Time limit.**

**CONES IN THE PADDOCK.** Get your horse use to cones and markers by putting a couple in his paddock near his feed or water so he has to walk past them each day.

**SAFETY GEAR IS A MUST!** Any driving at speed requires a safety helmet so make sure you use one. Also follow all safety guides previously dealt with in this guide.

**SET UP A CONES COURSE** Ask to borrow the club's set of cones and markers and get some help setting up a short cones course of about 10 cones.

- Walk the course with your experienced driver, who will give you pointers on how to drive it.
- Lead you horse through it, then ground drive your horse through it.
- Drive you horse through it at a walk.



**SET UP 3 BARRELS** Introduce your horse to the barrels, as above before leading and then driving your horse around them in loops.

**OBSTACLE CLUMP OF TREES.** Get an experienced driver to set up an obstacle with no more than 4 sets of gates. Walk the obstacle and check for hazards such as low branches, tree roots or rocks. Introduce your horse to it the same as the cones course.

**CLUB TRAINING DAY** Take your horse to a club training day, to socialize and introduce to a cones course etc.

**ARRIVE EARLY** On load and let your horse relax, taking your horse for a walk around to see the grounds set up.

**DON'T WALK YOUR HORSE THROUGH A COURSE.** This is frowned upon at competitions, so don't get into the habit now. At a club training day it should be O.K. to walk around the area.

**BE ON TIME TO LESSONS** If you have a booked lesson, be on time. Better still, be waiting on the side before your lesson.

**NO TIME LIMIT** Normally there is a set time your horse or pony has to complete the cones course at a trot, which is about 5 minutes, but at a Club training day there should be no limit for beginning drivers. Your club knows you are a beginner and as such should organize a time for beginners to drive the course.

**Able to negotiate pony or horse in a vehicle at a walk and trot a set of cones or other obstacles such as barrels, in an enclosed area. Time limit 20 % more than novice class.** *At this time there are no allowances for beginners at events, they are expected to make the times of experienced drivers in the novice class. It is hoped that beginner classes have an increase of time allowance to encourage accurate and safe driving at a slower speed.*

## **FOLLOW ALL SAFETY PROCEDURES**

- 1. Follow steps as above for Club Day.**
- 2. Make sure you have the correct dress and gear for the day.**
- 3. Report to Club or Event Secretary.**
- 4. Put your number on your vehicle which you received from club secretary.**

**Drive at your allocated time.**

**Able to drive as a competitor in an enclosed area at a One Day Event with dressage, cones and a very short section E with no more than 3 obstacles.**

*One Hour CDES or One Day Events are designed for beginners or people starting off their new horses and are not ready for a full weekend CDE. They are usually self-stewarding, which means you and your groom will be spending one half of the day recording the track taken by competitors through an obstacle, or recording start or finish times. Whatever your job, it is a great learning experience and helps the event run.*

- 1. CDE RULES** Read the rule book for CDES, a lot of the rules for CDE apply for One Hour CDES.
- 2. Send Your Entry in on time.** Ring before the closing date to let the organizers know you intend to come. Send in your paperwork on time. By doing this it helps the organizers plan the day, by knowing you can self-steward and also catering needs.
- 3. Learn your dressage test.** You can look this up on line or ask for a copy from the event secretary.
- 4. Prepare for the day.** Clean your horse, harness and vehicle the day before. Pack your harness and load the vehicle the day before. Calculate how long it will take to get to the event. You may be better arriving the day before, so you can have plenty of time to walk the course. Make a list and check off as you go. Carry Spares.
- 5. Know how to get there.** Plan your trip, avoid dirt roads if you can as the dust will settle on your clean horse and sulky.
- 6. Report to Event Secretary and get your information bag.** The secretary may have assigned you a camping spot. The secretary has a bag full of information which will back your time competing a bit easier. Get your start times out from your bag.
- 7. Find when you steward.** That is morning or afternoon. If morning walk the course if you have time, then do your stewarding, this is why it is a good idea to come the night before and

walk the course in the evening and again in the morning. If afternoon stewarding in the afternoon, do your drive, have lunch and then steward.

8. **Walk the arena, cones course and obstacle.** You need to see the area to check for any thing that could be a problem to you or your horse.
9. **Get ready and present to dressage.**
10. **Next do the marathon.** This should be no more than 5km in length and is often several loops of the sporting ground at which the event is held.
11. Last do the cones.

When completed hand in your competitor number, and have some lunch. If you haven't done your shared stewarding get the paperwork for this and turn up in time to do this.

## **Pleasure and Endurance Driving**

I recommend downloading the Pleasure and Endurance Guidelines to develop a better understanding of the requirement of this form of driving. Within this guide is a detailed set of guidelines on how each type of activity can be run. This guideline should be on the National Web site.

### **PLEASURE DRIVING**

**Pleasure Drives** Once you have completed a few club drives you may wish to be involved in pleasure drives other clubs put on these may involve overnight camping and covering distances of 30 to 50 kms in two sections within the day. There are two annual Pleasure drives in NSW that are over an extended time and cover a much greater distance. Before going to one of these find out about them, check your horse is fit enough to cover the distance and find out about organization, what to bring, do you need to have someone drive your horse float to the next camp site.

These pleasure drives are a great learning experience for you and your horse and well worth the drive, but if you are not organized beforehand it can pose many problems. Go as a helper the first time and you will learn so much.

### **Weekend Pleasure Drives or up to 60 km a day.**

1. **Download** entry form from web page.
2. **Check location**, and distance from you, so you can allow travelling time to the drive.
3. **Shoes Good?** Check your horse's shoes are secure and not worn.
4. **Clip your horse**, Trace clip under the belly to allow cooling from sweat evaporation.
5. **Warm your horse up for work.** Brush him before harnessing, then walk the first 10 minutes before trotting.
6. **Prepare you horse's fitness.** Start a few weeks before the drive if you are going to between 30 and 60km a day. Start doing between 3 and 5 kms each second day and gradually increase this to no more than 12kms each second day. On the weekend before the drive, try to do a 20 km drive.
7. **Learn to do TPR.** This is always a good thing to learn to assess you horse's fitness and recovery rate. Each day take your horse's resting rate, before you harness up. Then take the heart rate in harness on return, make sure you walk the last 1km home. Then unharness and cool off your horse and take the rate at 30 minutes. Record these results and note the distance and difficulty of the drive.
8. **Cooling Off** Walk the last km home. Unharness hose your horse down, scrape off the excess water which will be hot, keep applying water until your horse has cooled down. Let him have a drink, and take him for a walk in long grass to pee, which also gets rid of excess heat.
9. **Cooling in cold weather.** Be careful not to chill your horse, put on a light rug to stop the loss of too much heat in the cold wind. Rug him when he is dry.
10. **Go to the event.** Ask questions at the briefing before the drive. If it is a navigational drive make sure you understand the instructions. If you are going as a group with an escort vehicle at the front and back there should not be a problem.
11. **Care for your horse's needs first.** Make sure he is unharness and has a drink before you make a dash to the toilet. Feed him first before you have something to eat.

**Be on time for section 2 of the day drive.** Don't hold the group up as you need to leave together if you are traveling in a group. If you are doing a navigational drive, make sure you are ready to leave at your set time.

## **Endurance Driving**

I recommend you do at least one of the extended pleasure drives before you take on a full Endurance Drive as they can be demanding for the horse and for your team of helpers. Another way is to come as a day tripper for a few days, which will give you the feel of an endurance drive. Offering to groom for a driver will also be a good introduction for you to Endurance Driving.

### **What Endurance driving is all about.**

1. **Drive preparation** is much the same as the longer pleasure drives.
2. **Navigational Drive** \_ Endurance Drives are all navigational and you need to follow instructions on a page, which will include land marks you need to look for. If you don't pay attention you can get lost.
3. **Any Pace** – There is no set pace for any section of the course, and so you can walk or trot as horse needs it .

**Greatest distance in Shortest time.** The winner is the horse and driver covering the greatest distance in the shortest time without being vetted out. This is where your horse's heart rate does not recover within 30 minutes of completing the drive under 55 or 60 bpm depending on the section. Your horse can be vetted out for a number of other reasons including lameness and tying up.

## **Starting Show Driving**

This is a great way to support you local show and can be very rewarding. Show Driving driving is usually done within the centre ring of a trotting track or dog racing track. So the horse is contained within a fence.

Before you enter your horse in any show classes, you need to get your horse use to a range of different sights, some of which are mentioned in the section on Pleasure driving on the road. Get a Show Driving Manual, ask Jan Muspratt Federal Show Driving Convenor or check the Federal Web site for a Show Driving Manual.

### **At a Show your horse may encounter unusual things;**

- A large number of Ridden and Driven horses.
- Ridden horses who may shy at your carriage.
- Microphones, or loud speakers and loud music.
- A crowd of people.
- Lots of cars parked and some moving.
- Sheep, cattle, pigs, goats.
- Tractors, trucks vintage cars.
- Fireworks in the evening if you don't leave before dark.

These are the things you may encounter at an Agricultural Show, but if you go to an ACDS show most of these thing will not be there. So to start with you could start with an ACDS show before tackling an Agricultural Show.

Practice the following before attending your first show;

- Horse to stand still, without fussing.
- Horse to accept strangers walking up to their side.
- Horse accepts flapping skirts worn by the judge or ribbons puton the horse by the judge or steward.
- Horse able to do all basic movements, walk, trot halt, back.
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### **Prepare before going to the show.**

1. Read your entry. Check your time, cost of entry.
2. Research required dress for any special classes and additional props or equipment required.

3. Research how your horse is required to be presented according to the breed or job you are showing them to do.

#### **The day before the Show.**

- Wash your horse, rug according to the weather, put a tail bag on.
- Wash and polish your vehicle.
- Clean and polish your harness.
- Check you have everything you need, such as grooming gear, clothes, lunch and water.

#### **On the Show day.**

- Get up early, allowing time for your horse to eat and settle before traveling.
- Better still go to the show grounds the day before and camp over.
- Check the area you are driving in.
- Plan a safe path to and from your float / stable to the ring.
- Get your entry tickets, fill out and sign forms.
- Dress correctly, hat coat, gloves, apron or knee rug, carry a whip.
- Harness up and warm up you horse at least 30 min before your first class.

#### **In the Show Ring.**

- Be on time to the ring, listen and watch earlier classes. Some classes may not run and so your class may be moved to an earlier time.
- On entry, do a work out around the judge, until you are called to line up.
- Be polite to both the judge and the steward. The steward is in charge of the ring and you must follow their instructions upon entering. They have the right to refuse entry if you are late.
- Listen to the judge's instructions for the movements you are required to perform. Please note one of the ring stewards may have a laminated card with the movements set out by the judge. Look at it, and remember the movement, if you have a question ask the judge when it is your turn.
- Address the judge as Sir or Maddam, even if you know them very well. Give them respect.
- Tip you hat when finished and say thank you to the judge.
- Return to line and stand quietly.
- Wait for all to finish and congratulate the winners.
- If you are one of the winners, wait your turn and drive forward into the winners line.
- Thank the judge as you or your horse receives the ribbon.
- The winners do a victory lap and leave the ring, followed by all the other drivers.
- Take off the ribbon before entering the ring again.

It is polite to write and thank any sponsors if they donated a prize which you won. Eg a bag of feed, a head stall a new rug. In this way they are more likely to sponsor the class next year.