

Sheans Horse Farm – Leading a horse

We will be asking you to help look after and lead your child while riding with us.

You must understand that:

- Any horse that we are asking you to lead is a very experienced horse.
- Horse riding is a risk sport. Riding or working with horses at any standard has inherent risk and all horses may react unpredictably on occasions e.g. biting, kicking, spooking
- Any instructions we give you are for your own safety and you must follow all instructions given by staff and instructors at our centre.
- Children are at particular risk around horses and you must keep any children that you are responsible for, under close supervision when at our centre.

Here are some simple points to help ensure you and your rider are safe:

1. When leading a horse, make sure that you lead it from the left side meaning that the horse is on your right-hand side.
2. Grasp the rope a foot or so under the horse's chin with your right hand. Take up the slack with your left so the rope is not trailing on the ground
3. DO NOT wrap the lead line around your hand thinking you'll have a better grip. You must be able to let the lead line go quickly if something dangerous happens.
4. To make the horse move forward, gently tug the rope forward but remember to release pressure as soon as the animal moves forward.
5. When walking, stay on the horse's shoulder level, don't let the horse run in front or behind you
6. To stop your horse, you should stop walking and say, "whoa". A little backward tug on the rope is another way of cueing the animal to stop.
7. Keep a 2metre distance between you and the horse in front
8. Be careful that the horse does not stand on your foot
9. If the horse tries to reach down to eat some grass, gently pull the horse's head back to the direction that the trek is going.
10. Don't forget that you have a rider on board and to continually check on their wellbeing throughout the ride.

Remember:

1. Keep 2 metres between you and the horse/pony in front
2. The horse/pony can bite. Most likely to happen when the girth is being tightened
3. Watch out for horse/pony standing on your foot
4. Watch out for the horse/pony pulling the rope through your hands leading to rope burn