



ESSENTIALS OF TRAVELING WITH HORSES

Disclaimer:

This pamphlet is intended as a general guideline only. It is not a comprehensive or mandatory set of rules. Individual horse needs, travel conditions, and local regulations may vary. Always use your best judgment and consult with a qualified veterinarian or equine professional when making travel decisions.

Back Country Horsemen of Washington State The mission of this organization shall be:

- ♥ To perpetuate the common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
- ♥ To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- ♥ To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- ♥ To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resources by horsemen and the public commensurate with our heritage.
- ♥ To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.
- ♥ To Foster and Encourage new Chapters in the State Organization.



www.bchw.org

LONG-DISTANCE TRAVELING GUIDELINES



HEALTH CERTIFICATES- *A must when traveling across state lines.*

Make an appointment with your vet well in advance of when you want to leave. The Coggins blood test can take a week or more to get results back. Your test results and certificate for travel will be loaded into the Global Vet Link below. There you can fill out your plans and destination and print a copy for your truck. Always call or look online for requirements of the states you will be visiting!

Equine Compliance Solutions - [GlobalVetlink](#)

- Coggins (EIA blood test) is good for a year but some states require testing within 6 months
- Health Certs. Can be 30 days or 6 months (*always check the states regulations where you will be traveling*)
- GVR can help with the planning and states that reciprocate a 6mth health cert.
- Check the rules of the states you will be traveling through.
 - Montana requires an import permit for entry- call (406) 444-2976. *No charge for this permit.* See link for more information. ([bchmt.org](#))

BRAND INSPECTIONS- *All horses need a brand inspection through WA State Department of Agriculture to travel across state lines.*

- Call 360.635.7219 or online request at <https://agr.wa.gov/services/inspections-and-investigations/inspections/livestock> to schedule an appointment.

Horse Hotels and Rodeo Grounds- *Before you leave, take time to plan your route including all stops (breaks, water, overnight).*

- Call ahead to where you would like to stay to be sure they are open and space is available.
- Horse Motels International website has listings in each state but is not a complete list: <https://www.horsemotel.com/>
- Fairgrounds or Rodeo grounds will often allow overnight camping/boarding for a reasonable price.
 - ❖ County fairgrounds in Glens Ferry, ID
- Private facilities
 - ❖ Carol's Horse Motel in Kimberly, ID
 - ❖ The Diamond P Horse Motel in West Yellowstone, MT
 - ❖ Ruggs Outfitting in Superior, MT

Food and Water during travel time—

Make considerations for weather conditions and how your horse travels.

- Forest Service lands require you to have Certified Weed Free hay. Weed Free hay can be purchased at various feed stores; they have colored strings and come with a certificate. Compact bales are also an option, the heating process to compress these bales kills any seeds that may have been present.
- Always carry water for your horses in your trailer, even if water is available at your destinations. Carry enough for one day, just in case you get delayed and off schedule.
 - Some horses will not drink treated water, and many rodeo and boarding facilities have treated water.
- As a rule, 600 miles in one day is about a 12-hour day with ample stops (30 min rests). Try to book a place to stop for the night where horses have a turnout to move and lay down.
- Break up a long day of travel with a shorter day if possible.
- If the weather is hot or your horse is a nervous hauler, try and keep it to 8-10 hour days.
- Caravan with others if possible.
- *Personal Preference-* We feed less while traveling, to keep an emptier stomach over a too full stomach, providing breakfast, lunch and dinner (every 4 hours). (*check with your vet for your horses needs*)
 - Some horses are always quieter with food available, you will have to monitor and assess your horse's needs.
 - Alfalfa hay (not pellets) can help coat the stomach from acid build up during traveling (if your horse can tolerate and is used to occasional Alfalfa).
- Taking your horse out of the trailer during rest periods is a personal preference. Be aware of your surroundings for safety reasons.
- You can offer water during rest stops, but horses tend not to drink much during travel.

Finding a vet or farrier when traveling

- Check local Chamber of Commerce Listings.
- GVR System has a tool to use to find local vet care.
- Local BCH clubs might be able to help you when needed.

Towing

Check with [BCHA](#) for a list of local BCH groups that may be able to help you find people or agencies able to tow loaded horse trailers in case of emergencies.

Pre-Trip Vehicle check: Brakes, bearings, tires, RV is working properly (stove, propane, heater, fridge etc).

HORSE CAMPING SUPPLY LIST

TRAILER

- Tire check
- Wheelbarrow
- Ladder
- Canopy
- Chairs
- Tent
- Tarp
- Tables
- Water People/Animals
- Heater
- Shower
- Shower Grate
- Portable Toilet
- Propane(BBQ/Heat/RV)
- Water Tanks Full
- Tire Chuck
- Highline
- Portable Fence
- Pitchfork
- Grooming Supplies
- Hobbles
- Hoof Pick (2)
- BBQ
- Camp Stove
- Saw
- Generator
- Gas
- Wood
- Tool Box

HORSE FEED

- Hay
- Buckets
- Grain
- Hay Bags
- Supplements
 - Electrolytes

HORSE PAPERS

- Brand Inspection
- Health Cert.

*(See states using
[MyVetLink](#))*

HORSE EQUIPMENT

- Saddles
- Saddle/Cantle Bags
- Bridles
- Saddle Pads
- Blanket
(Heavy/Med/fleece)
- Fly Spray
- Barefoot Boots
- Fly Mask
- Bear Spray

Extras:

- Halter
- Lead Ropes
- Cinch
- Bridle
- Reins
- Saddle Pad
- Repair Kit
 - Leather punch
 - Leather String
 - Screws
 - Billets
 - Chin Straps
 - Pliers
 - Knife
 - Screwdriver
 - Bailing Wire

FIRST AID KIT

- Vet Wrap
- Banamine
- Bute
- Neosporin
- Benadryl

- Diaper/Tampon
- Gauze
- Salve
- Wonder Dust
- Scissors

DOG

- Dog Food/Dishes
- Chain
- Leash
- Kennels

PERSONAL

- Clothes/Hats
- Duster/Coats
- Boots - shoes
- Bathroom Items
 - Shampoo
 - Body Soap
 - Brush
 - Tooth Brush
 - Toothpaste
- Pain/Cold Meds
- Make-up
- Lotion
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Bath Towels
- Kitchen Towels
- Utensils
- Flashlights
- Bug spray
- Pocket Knife
- Personal Protection
- Camera/phone
Chargers
- Garmin Radio
- Maps
- Food
- Drinks
- Ice
- Batteries