



# Traveling with Your Horse - Across State Lines or Across Town

Many of our 'horseback riding' guests travel many miles and cross at least one state line to reach our remote location. As a result, they have to be prepared to deal with travel issues. They must also be sure they meet each state's regulations and requirements. To help them prepare, we've compiled a bit of information - on traveling in general, and on crossing some specific state lines. We've also included links for more information on other state regulations.

## Traveling With Your Horse

Most trailering incidents occur because someone forgot to check something, or they failed to use common sense. The following information is just 'common sense', but a checklist is a great way to make sure you don't overlook something little which could become something important miles down the road.

- **Use a trailer tie** instead of a lead rope. Lead ropes can become tangled - and some bored horses have been known to untie them - or shred them by chewing on them.
- **Provide hay** in a hay net. There are various theories on this one. Some say don't feed when traveling (due to dust or choking issues). Others say feed keeps your horse occupied and more content. Use your own judgment, but by all means, tie your haybag up sufficiently that even as it empties, it won't drop down where your horse can get his foot tangled in it.
- **Water frequently** during long trips. This is especially important during hot weather. However, some horses are finicky about drinking while traveling. To help combat this - bring water from home and allow them time to relax and explore their surroundings during a water break.
- **Give your horse a break** during long trips. While traveling, your horse is adjusting his weight continually to keep his balance. If you're traveling more than two hours (some say four), be sure to give your horse regular breaks with opportunities to walk around and stretch their muscles. \*And, be sure to 'pick up' after your horse.\*
- **Schedule in time** for your horse to rest after a long trip - before you ask them to give you a ride. The extra time to adjust to their new surroundings will work toward your benefit in the end.
- **Provide safe footing** in your trailer. Wood and metal can get slippery. A non-slip mat is easier on their feet and allows them better traction.
- **Don't leave loose items** in your trailer. This may seem obvious, but double check after each rest stop to be sure you picked up and packed up all loose items.

- **Put the largest horse** on the road side. Road's are sloped to encourage run-off. Putting the heavy horse on the 'high' side of the road will make your trailer track better.
- **Take care of yourself.** Hauling animals is more stressful and requires greater levels of concentration than standard driving. Pay attention to your own body and don't overdue it - for your own safety and that of your 'friend' in the back.
- **Remember** you have extra weight back there - weight that moves. If you have to slam on your breaks, not only is it going to jar your horse, but you'll have several thousand pounds of horse which won't stop instantly! Give yourself plenty of room. Start easy and stop easy. Don't make sharp jerky turns. Your horse is standing (or trying to) back there. Give them a pleasant ride, and they'll be much more willing to give you the opportunity to take them somewhere else.
- **Remember** if you have an accident or become unable to take responsibility for your horse(s), the police will be left caring for them. Be sure to carry a list of emergency numbers which apply to their care and health as well.

**Horse Facilities:** If you will be traveling more than a day to reach our western Montana Lodge, you will probably be looking for a place which will accommodate both you and your four-legged friend. We've compiled links to facilities in several nearby states which cater to horsemen.

- **Idaho:** Several [hotels](#) in Idaho welcome horses and their people.
- **Montana:** A list of Montana [hotels](#) which welcome horsemen and their traveling companions.
- **North Dakota:** North Dakota [hotels](#) also provide lodging for two and four legged critters.
- **South Dakota:** There are several [hotels](#) in South Dakota who welcome horses and their people.
- **Utah:** Not to be left out, Utah [hotels](#) offer accommodations for horses and people.
- **Wyoming:** A list of Wyoming [hotels](#) which cater to the horse crowd.

**Crossing State Lines:** Interstate horse travel requires some preparation and forethought. Be sure to visit your veterinarian far in advance as it can take days, even weeks, to get the necessary results from blood work. Every state requires, at the least, two separate pieces of paperwork - A "Certificate of Veterinary Inspection" (a health certificate) which is valid for 30 days and a test for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), also known as swamp fever, malarial fever, mountain fever, or slow fever. This test is generally referred to as "Coggins". This test is valid for 6 months in some states, a year in others.

Traveling west of the Mississippi River is a little more complicated than staying to its east. **By law, you are required to have a current health certificate, a current Coggins, and brand inspection papers for all horses in your trailer.** Brand Inspection papers (aka "Hauling Papers") have little to do with a physical brand. Its purpose is to prove ownership and can be obtained either as an annual inspection or a lifetime inspection which is valid until the horse changes ownership.

These papers require the brand inspector to physically inspect the horse and proof of ownership. The inspector then draws the horse's distinctive marks on an outline,

inspects the horse's registration or bill of sale, and takes your statement that the horse is your own. Once the brand inspector has been paid, you will be given a laminated card which works as your Brand Inspection certificate.

**Idaho**

Bureau of Animal Health  
2270 Old Penitentiary Road  
P.O. Box 7249  
Boise, Idaho 83701  
Phone: (208) 332-8540  
Fax: (208) 334-4062

**Horses** transported or moved into the state of Idaho shall be accompanied by an official certificate of veterinary inspection or extended validity equine certificate, from the state of origin, stating that the animals are free from evidence of any communicable disease and have complete EIA test requirements, except as provided in this section.

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test requirements:

An official EIA test is a blood test for EIA conducted by a USDA approved laboratory, within six (6) months of entry of the animal into Idaho.

Entry of the animal shall not be allowed until the EIA test has been completed and reported negative. Equidae with tests 'pending' are not acceptable. Equidae which test positive to the EIA test shall not be permitted entry into Idaho, except by special written permission from the Bureau of Animal Health.

A nursing foal less than six (6) months of age accompanied by its EIA certified dam is exempt from test requirements.

For further information, check with [Idaho](#) regulations.