

Hunting Etiquette and Guidelines

These rules are not intended to be restrictive, but are, if obeyed, a means of ensuring that everyone enjoys better sport and that the traditions of foxhunting are preserved. Upon arriving at a meet, it is traditional to greet the Masters and the hunt staff.

1. If you have guests, introduce them to the Masters and the Honorary Secretary and ensure that their cap fee is paid before the hunt. (Please do not do this from the back of your horse.) The cap should be enclosed in an envelope with your guest's name printed on the outside.
2. Hounds will move off promptly at the appointed time; please be punctual because we will not wait for you. Late arrivals disrupt hunting.
3. Keep all green horses at the rear of the field, and all unruly horses at home. If your horse begins to act up, take him to the back of the field. Any habitual bad-mannered horses will be excused from hunting. Affix red ribbons securely to the tails of any horses even slightly prone to kick and any mares in season. Please remember, however, that a red ribbon does not absolve the rider of responsibility. Such horses should be kept to the rear of the field. Most importantly, any horse guilty of kicking a hound will be excused from hunting.
4. Stay together and obey your Field Master; DO NOT take your own line or straggle behind. (This applies to both First, Second, & Mounted Hill Topper Flights.) If you must pull out early, please inform the Field Master and get his or her advice on a homeward route that will not interfere with hunting.
5. Conventional hunt etiquette reserves the position at the front of the field behind the Field Master to senior members of the hunt who have been awarded their colors or to others specifically invited by a Master to ride up front that day.
6. If you bring small children or guest hunting, it is your responsibility to stay with them and to assist them throughout the hunt. Remember, Juniors ride at the rear of the field.
7. Avoid crowding at the fences, gates, and gaps, because this is where accidents are likely to happen. If you have a refusal at a fence or other obstacle, pull aside to let the field continue over the fence or obstacle and ask someone to give you a lead. Remember also that the hunting field is no place to race your horse. Point-to-Points are held in the spring for that purpose. Do not school your horses over fences while out hunting or jump fences unnecessarily. School them at home.
8. NEVER speak to or interfere with the hounds unless asked to do so by a Master or a hunt staff member. BE QUIET when hounds are drawing for a fox or working at a check. Hounds have a right-of-way and, if hounds are ahead of you over a jump, hold back and allow them to get well clear before you go forward. Do not allow hounds to follow you if you pull out early.

9. Conversation in the hunt field should be kept to a minimum and always at a low volume. Remember, the social part of foxhunting is after the hunt at the breakfast. The staff will avoid passing the field if at all possible, but should they have to do so, please attempt to turn your horse's head
10. toward them. Teach your horse to back off the trail, for very often a horse will back into places it would be most reluctant to go forward into, and it is easier and quicker to do with a little practice.
11. Keep to the edges of fields to avoid destroying crops, all lawns, and all livestock. If you discover strayed livestock, it will create goodwill for your hunt to notify the Field Master immediately so proper action may be taken. Repair, at least temporarily, any damaged panels or gates. Do not lower rails for your own convenience without restoring them to their original height after you have jumped them. When someone else is considerate enough to stop to close a gate or replace a rail, or is off their horse to assist another field member, be thoughtful enough to wait for them or offer help if needed.
12. A current Coggins test, a Virginia state, small game hunting license, Emergency Medical Information form and a signed waiver of liability are required for everyone who goes foxhunting. Give to the Honorary Hunt Secretary prior to the hunt, along with the cap fee, or email prior to the Hunt.
13. Take the time to turn yourself out properly and your horse out neatly and cleanly. Western saddles or bridles, Australian stock saddles, and brightly colored saddle pads have no place in the hunt field. White saddle shaped pads only.
14. MEMBERS of the Princess Anne Hunt who have been awarded their colors with another hunt should not wear those colors or buttons when hunting with Princess Anne Hunt. Of course, GUESTS from other hunts may wear their colors if invited to do so by the Masters or at joint meets.
15. When you are out hacking and not a part of the hunt, you have no implied or express right to ride over land that is not yours unless you as an individual have obtained permission from the landowner.
16. Extend the utmost courtesy to all landowners, their employees and tenants, for they are, in effect, our host and hostesses, and it is only through their generosity, hospitality, good will that we are able to hunt over their land. Please remember that when you come hunting you are representing the Princess Anne Hunt and the sport of fox hunting.
17. Be sure to park at the designated fixture and where you will not block access to farm equipment, roads, etc. Stay off lawns and out of any seeded or plowed areas.

Proper Attire When Hunting with Princess Anne Hunt

GENTLEMEN (with colors) Scarlet coat with 3 brass buttons and colors on collar. Top hat or black velvet hunt cap. Attached harness encouraged. Canary yellow vest, white twill breeches, black boots with brown tops, white boot garters, blunt spurs, white stock tie and plain gold pin. Brown leather or white string gloves

GENTLEMEN (without colors) Black Melton coat with plain black buttons. Black boots, canary vest, beige or buff breeches, with brown or white string gloves, white shirt and stock tie with plain stock pin. Black bowler or hunt cap. Attached harness encouraged

LADIES (with colors) Black Melton coat with colors on collar, and black bone hunt buttons. Canary vest, buff or beige breeches with leather or white string gloves. White shirt with stock tie and plain stock pin, black bowler or hunt cap. Attached harness encouraged. Long hair neatly captured in a hair net. Black boots with patent leather tops and blunt spurs.

LADIES (without colors) same as ladies with colors except no colors on collar, plain buttons and no patent boot tops. OPTIONAL HUNTING ATTIRE (with or without colors) Shadbelly, silk top hat (not dressage hat) Ladies side-saddle habit.

Mounted Hill Topper, Cubbing & Wednesday Hunts

Hacking jacket, tweed or solid color except red. Breeches of beige, buff or canary, choker for ladies, shirt with tie for gentlemen, or turtleneck. Brown or black leather boots with brown or black hunt cap. Formal attire is also permitted.

JUNIOR'S Ratcatcher and safety helmets.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We hope to see you at Opening Meet!

Dee Dee Mausteller, MFH
Edward Mitchell, MFH