

Book Review/Trail Guide Manual

by Denise Maxwell, President, Illinois Trail Riders

If you are one of those people who enjoy the great outdoors from the back of a horse or mule, you need to read this book.

The **Trail Guide Manual** by the **Certified Horsemanship Association** is an extensive, (252 page), comprehensive collection of the skills and knowledge necessary for any trail rider or trail guide



in any setting. It is based on the requirements of the nationally recognized, four level, certification program that has promoted excellence in safety and education for the benefit of the horse industry since the 60's. This One Manual, organized specifically to reduce or eliminate the risks to trail riders and horses, creates a solid framework for a safe and professional equestrian experience.

On the trail, we each have a responsibility to ourselves, our livestock, the environment and the

others who use the resource as we, and our saddle clubs, meet the challenges and expectations of our riding experiences.

Wide ranges of topics are covered in the book, associated with everything from horse care and handling. The basics of behavior, feeding, first aid, hoof care and health for horse and rider are introduced. Horsemanship and riding skills are explained along with the correct use, adjustment, care and repair of tack and equipment that are used for trail riding and packing. Camping skills, navigation, menu planning and emergency procedures complement each section, from the one-hour trail ride to overnight trips to wilderness adventures on horseback. These skills are connected with a thread of professional standards expected from the mature, educated equestrian who utilizes many interpersonal relationship skills and exhibits respect and empathy for participants, livestock, the environment, and the land manager associated with the recreational activity of trail riding.

The material is sound, accurate and so complete that the manual could easily be used as a textbook for any college course in trail riding. The original format and presentation of the facts are easy to read and in larger print than the trail and packing books which have been published earlier. Bulleted Outlines and succinct narratives waste no words as they convey important information. The many pictures and photos enhance the readers understanding and knowledge essential for increasing the personal skills of a participant or a leader in any trail riding activity.

Since this manual was written in 2009 by a group of experts, it draws from 16 or more of the most popular references on the topic of safe, low-impact horse, trail, and packing skills in the backyard and the backcountry.

The book is available online at ww.CHA-ahse.org or at 800-399-0138. You need a copy!

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Dedicated to Keeping Horses on our Trails