



Guidelines for Horse, Pony and other Equines.

What can your equine pull ?

Carriage Weight & Your Equine: How Much Weight is Safe for an Equine to Pull?

DRIVER'S RESPONSIBILITY

The driver is responsible for knowing the venue as well as limits and capabilities of his/her equine.

Events should have the conditions and types of terrain published in advance. If not then don't be scared to ask.

Entering an event when the terrain will obviously be overwhelming to one's equine, or not withdrawing from a competition when the conditions warrant, would be irresponsible no matter what size equine one might drive.

Why not get your equine weighed? Many of the feed and supplement companies offer a weighing service for a group of equines. Then you can monitor the weight using a weight tape.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Equine strength and fitness - weight, physical condition (fitness, fatness & feeding), natural ability, temperament, conditioning.
- Surface - hard vs. soft surface (level roads / gravel / deep sand / heavy mud).
- Shod or not.
- Vehicle, harness and spares - know the unladen weight of your carriage, your harness, your gear.
- Driver and groom(s) – know their weights.
- Hills and deep going - Increase in gradient and soft going make more work for the equine.
- Type of work - speed, stops & starts, acceleration needed. Obstacles are VERY hard work.
- Harness - proper harness fitting is essential. If in doubt ask and don't be upset if someone comes and comments, they are only trying to help.
- Weather conditions - Be especially vigilant of temperature and humidity.

SUGGESTED WEIGHT RANGES

The type of work we require from our equines on the marathon is hard, energetic and often fast. Equines need to be fit to safely be capable of doing the job we ask of them without risking injury.

A possible range is 1 : 1 to 1 : 1.5 where 1 is the equine. This is where the weight of the carriage, harness, spares, driver and groom does not add up to more, or very much more, than the weight of the equine.