

Look at it from my point of view!



If a dog runs towards me in play or aggression I will run away.

This might cause problems for me, my rider, other members of the public or your dog!

Why do horses run?

- Animals such as the horse were prey for many large carnivores, such as the common ancestor of the wolf and dog.
- To survive, they run from any threat of attack. This is often referred to as 'flight'.
- The horse's natural survival instinct is strong and a rider has little influence over this
- A bolting horse presents very real danger for other members of the public present
- If the area is not enclosed the horse may run onto a busy road and be hit by a car or other vehicle
- The dog may pursue the horse onto the road and also be hit by another road user
- The rider may fall off and injure themselves if the horse moves quickly sideways or kicks out
- The horse may kick out at the dog; as many horses have steel shoes on their hooves, these can do some serious damage to your dog
- A horse may not react any differently to an approach from a muzzled dog or even a friendly dog; they do not know they cannot be bitten.

10 ways to avoid a chase situation

- Socialise and try to train your dog with horses from an early age so they are not a scary or exciting thing to come across
- Ensure you have your dog under close control and have a reliable recall through training
- If you do not have a sound recall, please keep your dog on a lead
- If you see a horse approaching recall and keep your dog as still as possible in a visible but safe place
- If you see a rider approaching quickly, make yourself visible so they can slow to a walk before they pass you
- Wear hi-viz equipment, it's the safe thing to do generally, and riders can see you and react at an earlier opportunity
- Encourage your dog not to bark at a passing horse; give him food treats when you see a horse; horses mean 'good thing happens'!
- Once horses have passed you, keep your dog under close control
- Do not allow your dog to enter a field of grazing horses
- **Stop and speak to each other. You have more in common than you think!**



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If I have never seen a horse, I may be scared or nervous and react by investigating or chasing.

This might upset me if a horse passes me quickly.

Why do dogs chase?

- Dogs are a predatory species, and originate from hunting other animals; it is how they have survived and evolved into what we have today
- They have an instinctive behaviour pattern, and aspects of it have been developed by humans so dogs could do 'jobs' of work
- Today most dogs are kept as pets, but their chasing and hunting instincts are still there
- Some dogs will have never seen a horse before and they will react with a mixture of fear, curiosity or nervousness which may come out in defensive aggression or result in chasing
- Dogs may see the horse and want to play – the horse is unlikely to understand this!

10 ways to avoid a chase situation

- Socialise and try to train your horse with dogs so they do not react to their presence
- Keep your horse as calm as possible when passing dogs
- Always slow to a walk to pass dogs, and communicate with the dog owner at the earliest opportunity; they may not have seen you – particularly if you are approaching from behind!
- Give dogs that appear nervous a wide berth so they do not feel threatened
- Wear hi-viz equipment so dog owners can see you as soon as possible and take control of their dog
- If riding in a group, go past in single file in an efficient manner at a walk
- Always thank dog owners who keep control and allow you to pass them safely
- Do not shout or wave arms around
- If necessary, stop to allow an excited dog to be caught
- **Stop and speak to each other. You have more in common than you think!**



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More information from:
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