



Field Etiquette.

Before hunting it is advisable to contact the hunt secretary to find out the location of the hunt, the meet time and the amount to be paid as a capping fee. This can be done via email or through the HH Facebook page. If you are invited by a member of the club to join the HH at a meet it is customary for the person who issued the invite to ask permission from the Huntsman/ Masters beforehand.

On arriving at the meet, if you are paying a cap, you should make yourself known to the hunt secretary. At this time you will be asked to sign a waiver and pay the fee.

When riding out with the hounds all members and guests must follow the path of the field masters. If a member or guest would like to either retire early or switch fields they must request permission from the field master.

When instructions or messages are passed back from the field masters they must be passed along and obeyed. This is for the safety of the riders in the group.

Members of the HH and guests of the club are not permitted to ride either with the whippers-in or with the huntsman unless they are invited to do so. This is to enable them to do their jobs to the best of their ability without the added responsibility of ensuring another riders safety.

Right of way is given to the Huntsman and whippers-in at all times. If you are informed that they will be "coming through" then you are to move out of their path and turn your horse's heads toward them and their tails away.

If you have a horse that kicks then a **red** ribbon **must** be worn in its tail at **all times** and you are advised to stay to the rear of the group.

Horses that are considered green or new to the field are advised to put a **green** ribbon or tape in their tail. This is to make other riders aware that your horse may be a little unpredictable and to give it a little space.

Hounds have right of way at **all times**. If your horse kicks or stands on a hound at any time please make a master or field master aware so that it may receive any attention it may require. We do request that you desensitize your horses to hounds where possible as our hounds are very important to us and a horse that repeatedly kicks at hounds may need to retire from the field.

Dress Code

For Cubbing, (August)

At this time the dress code is a little more relaxed, this is due to the fact that the weather can still be a little hot and sticky. Smart britches can be worn along with tall boots or field boots and chaps. You also have the option to wear one of our HH T-shirts or polo tops or your tweed jackets with shirt and stock tie/tie. A safety approved helmet is a must, we no longer permit the use of unapproved helmets such as top hats, bowlers ect.

Formal Hunting (September- December)

Ladies...

Beige breeches, black tall boots or boots with patent tops, white shirt and stock tie and a black or dark blue jacket. Helmets must be black or dark in color.

Men with colours....

Pinque coats, white stock tie, shirt, breeches and a stock pin. Black boots or black boots with brown tops.

Men without colours....

Black or dark jacket, beige breeches, white shirt, stock tie and stock pin. Black or black and tan boots.



Eager horses are stamping in their trailers, the masters are being greeted. A cool mist lays low across the territory with the promise of a good days sport.

The hounds are babbling anxiously awaiting their release and the huntsman's call to gather and ready.

Anticipation is in the air, o what a thrill, to follow across breathtaking territory with only the sound of hoof beats and the bellows of a pack at full cry.

THE HAMILTON HUNT AND EQUESTRIAN SPORTS CLUB.

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A brief history.

Field hunting in Canada has been a great tradition for many years, with the first recorded hunt in 1650.

To allow the sport to succeed many areas have modified the sport to include coyotes where foxes are either few in number or are non-native to the land.

Field hunting is the pursuit of a fox/coyote with fox hounds whose keen sense of smell enables them to follow at speed the trail (scent) left by their quarry.

Field hunting is a friendly and non-competitive sport in which the main objective is to enjoy the thrill of chase and to observe a well-trained pack of hounds in full cry and at work. It is NOT as many believe to catch and kill their quarry but to watch as the hounds unravel the mystery as to where the coyote has taken flight and try to piece together the route it may have taken, whether that be across field, through creeks or into the forests and bush.

It is only due to community spirit, the cooperation and generous permission of the land owners and the hard work of the huntsman, staff and volunteers that we are able to enjoy the territory on which we hunt to its fullest. It is therefore important that we follow the simple rules and etiquette established over generations so that we may continue to enjoy the sport.



A glossary of hunting terms

Hark; please be quiet and listen.

Headland: the strip of land bordering a field or territory.

Ware: please be aware of

Ware hound/s; please be aware that there are hounds coming through.

Babbling; when hounds are giving voice or barking for no reason.

Cast; when the huntsman sends his hounds in to cover then draws them out again to send them in another direction he is said to be casting the hounds.

Couple; Hounds are always counted in pairs. This pairing is called a couple.

Drawing; when hounds are working a cover or an area they are said to be drawing it.

This short booklet has been written as a tool for use in the field to help newcomers to the sport understand the traditions and enjoy their time with the Hamilton Hunt Club. We will be outlining the roles within the club, dress code and etiquette within the field. We hope you find this useful and if you have any further questions please feel free to ask either the Huntsman, Masters or any of the field staff.

Roles of the Hunt staff

The Masters

The senior members that are chosen to represent the club are known as the Masters of foxhunting. Their role is similar to that of the president of a company. It is customary to greet a Master with “Good morning” and to introduce yourself when going out with the hunt.

When leading a field they are known as field Masters and riders are not permitted to pass them at any time. It is their task to ensure the safety of the riders and their mounts.

The job of field master can be delegated to another member of the club. In this instance they will also be known as a field master and will take on the roles and responsibilities of that position.

The Huntsman

This gentleman/ woman is pivotal to the running of the club. They are responsible for the kennels and all aspects of day to day caring for the hounds. This includes but is not limited to, breeding, feeding, first aid, cleaning, exercising and of course hunting. He or she is the person that leads out the hunt and gives instruction to the hounds while in the field.



The whippers-in.

These men and women are the Huntsman’s assistants and are important in the smooth running of a day’s hunting, they also help with the exercising of the hounds on a day to day basis. While out hunting they keep the hounds off roadways and off territory that is out of bounds. They also round up the hounds when necessary.

The Fields.

At the Hamilton hunt club we mainly have two fields. The first is the faster of the two which includes walk, trot, canter, gallop and jumping. This group stays close to the Huntsman and can be quite fast at times when on a run.

The second field is a more sedate pace with a walk, trot and if the riders are comfortable a little cantering. The group tends to hang back a little more and more often than not gets the best view of the wile coyotes ducking for cover.

If the demand is great a third field can be introduced called “Hill toppers”. This is a mainly walk, trot group that aims to find the perfect spot to view the days sport.

