



**VIRGINIA  
TRAIL RIDERS, INC.**

**CONDITIONS**

**100-MILE TRAIL RIDE**  
(April)

&

**50-MILE TRAIL RIDE**  
(April)

&

**30-MILE TRAIL RIDE**  
(April)

at  
HOT SPRINGS, VIRGINIA

## CONDITIONS OF 100 MILE RIDE

1. **SPONSOR:** This is sponsored by the Virginia Trail Riders, Inc. It is designed to encourage training and conditioning horses for a long trip without the use of artificial aids or stimulants and to encourage horsemanship and the care of horses on long distance rides.
2. **OBJECTIVE:** The purpose of the ride is to: (1) Demonstrate to the owner and rider that his horse is fit to meet the exacting conditions of the ride over demanding terrain within specified time limits, and, (2) Enjoy the good fellowship of others engaged in the same sport.
3. **ELIGIBILITY:** Entries are open to stallions, mares and geldings. Horses must be able to be safely handled by officials of the Ride.
4. **ENTRIES:** All entries must be made on the official application blank and filed with Virginia Trail Riders, Inc., together with the entry fee.
5. **RIDERS:** No change in riders shall be allowed excepting in case of sickness or accident. In either case a request for a substitute rider may be submitted to the Judges for consideration. The original rider cannot reenter the Ride if granted a substitute. Riders must remain in the saddle when the horse is in motion over the course, but may dismount and rest provided they do not advance.
6. **DIVISIONS:** Horses will be separated into three equal weight divisions determined by rider weight: **LIGHTWEIGHT**, **MIDDLEWEIGHT**, and **HEAVYWEIGHT**. **NOVICE** will not have weight divisions and will be open to horses that have never participated in a 100 or 50 mile ride.
7. **THE COURSE:** The total distance of 100 miles will be covered at the rate of 40 miles each of the first two days and 20 miles the third day, regardless of weather. All contestants must follow the prescribed course. Riders will be penalized at the discretion of the Judges for any errors in following the trail. When leaving the trail, rider must return to the same point to continue. The courses will be laid out by the Supervisor of the Course. They will be plainly marked. Contestants will be called to start from their stall each day.
8. **SHOES:** Due to terrain, shoes of your choice and pads are recommended.
9. **OFFICIALS:** The officials appointed by the Officers of the VTRI are listed below and any assistants that may be deemed necessary or desirable:

a. **CHIEF STEWARD:** Shall be responsible for the smooth operation of the Ride. To aid and cooperate with the Judges to facilitate the accurate and efficient completion of their duties. He shall receive all complaints and promptly act on same. He shall interpret the rules of the Ride for the other officials as necessary.

b. **JUDGES:** Will be one or more persons who are completely familiar with horses and their capabilities. One of the Judges will be a veterinarian. They shall be responsible for the complete evaluation of the condition of each horse during the entire period of the Ride and the assessment of the penalties for infringement of the rules.

c. **RECORDER:** Records the findings of the Judges, the Clerk of Scales and the Timekeeper during and at the close of the Ride.

d. **CLERK OF THE SCALES:** Superintends the place and facilities for weighing and records the official weights.

e. **TIMEKEEPER:** Keeps an accurate record of the departure and arrival of each contestant, and notifies the Judges daily.

f. **STABLES:** All horses competing in the Ride must be stabled at The Homestead.

Stalls and tack rooms will be assigned. There will be a nightwatchman on duty between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. during the Ride. All other persons are excluded from the stables during these hours.

The VTRI provides 5 days of stabling and initial bedding. Contestants must bring or purchase their grain, hay, and additional straw.

If a horse uses the stable for more than 5 days there will be an extra charge. Participants who wish to make a longer stay must communicate with The Homestead Stable.

g. **FARRIER:** Resets shoes at lunch stops, along the trail as far as practical, when requested. Any expense connected with any such service must be paid by contestant.

10. **JUDGING:** The Judges will examine the horses on the first day of the Ride. All Faults, blemishes and unsoundness noted by the Judges or claimed by the contestants, and accepted by the Judges, shall be recorded. A horse which in the opinion of the Judges is not suited for a long ride will not be permitted to start.

Judging begins on the first day of the Ride and ends immediately before prizes are awarded. Final judgment as to the condition will be based on observation during the whole of the judging period, and especially at the finish. The Judges will check condition of the horses at the conclusion of each day's ride.

The Judge shall assure that the pulse and respiration of each horse is taken at least once each day. Individual heart monitors will be allowed but any arguing with the Judge over pulse and respiration will result in automatic disqualification of the rider. Any Judge observing an abnormal condition of any contesting horse shall, as soon as practical inform the Veterinarian Judge. Any horse in the Ride may be disqualified if the Judges feel it is not equal to the task or whose future well-being might be jeopardized by continuing. If a horse during the Ride requires special treatment, additional help must be obtained at the owner's expense. **Any horses given medicine of any kind during the Ride will be disqualified.** The Chief Steward will advise the contestants of any abnormal conditions found by the Judges that are deemed to need treatment or are a basis for discontinuing the Ride.

11. SCORING: Awards are made on the basis of 100% for condition. There will be scoring penalties for being under or over the time allowed. Automatic elimination after 7% hours the first two days and 3% hours the third day, as recorded in the timekeeper's records.

Allotted Time:

6 ½ to 7 ¼ hours.....First & Second Days

2 ¾ to 3 ½ hours..... Third Day

Horses may be held on the trail by the Judges for observation. At the discretion of the Judges such time may be credited to the time record of horse or horses so held. In such case the recorder must inform the rider immediately, also the Timekeeper at the end of the day. Time on the road is reckoned from time out at the start to time in at the finish. No additional time will be credited except that allocated by the Judges. Horses will be checked in at the start and finish by the Judges and the Timer. The Timekeeper will give each rider their time as they start. The lunch break is included in the time (i.e., no deduction for time consumed at lunch).

12. CARE OF MOUNTS: Hand rubbing and the use of water at room temperature are permitted, but salves, salt on the back, liniments, compresses and bandages are prohibited.

Horses may be allowed to stand in water of room temperature in individual buckets only while such water is being sloshed on legs. Rubbing cloths may be used but not as substitutes for bandages or swabs. Injuries and wounds shall be reported to the Veterinarian Judge immediately. **\*Rule 10, Par. 4. NO MEDICINE, DRUG, STIMULANT, OR ARTIFICIAL APPLICATION OF ANY KIND MAYBE ADMINISTERED OR APPLIED TO ANY HORSE.** Horse boots of all kinds are prohibited. Fly spray is acceptable.

Horses are not permitted out of their stalls in the morning until called for the pre ride walk out, after which they should be returned to their stalls until their number is called.

Horses while being cooled out after each day's Ride, must not leave the stable area. Hand walking in the stable area is permitted after the Ride up until 10 p.m. at which time the stable is closed until 6 a.m. Water hoses are not permitted in cooling out horses.

**NO SMOKING IN THE STABLE AREA OR ON THE TRAILS.**

13. AWARDS: All horses that satisfactorily complete the Ride will receive a completion ribbon. The Judges will select the best horse of the Ride, regardless of Division, as Grand Champion, the second best horse as Reserve Champion and then select the next best six horses from each Division. Ribbons will be awarded to the Grand and Reserve Champions. A trophy will be presented to the winner of each division, along with a trophy for permanent possession. Ribbons will be presented to six best horses in each Division. All permanent trophies are to be retained for one year by the winner and must be engraved and returned to the VTRI in time for the next ride.

14. GENERAL: The Board of Directors reserves the right to cancel the Rides before March 15th by return of the entry fee, if the number of entries is not sufficient to justify the Rides. The entry fee will not be returned for any other reason.

A Coggins Test Certificate is to accompany the entry (12 months).

The Virginia Trail Riders, Inc. requires all participants to sign a liability waiver.

All riders must stay at The Homestead Hotel.

## CONDITIONS OF 50 MILE RIDE

1. The object of the 50-Mile Ride is to have a pleasure ride of a competitive nature at the same time as the 100-Mile Ride is held, for those who are unable to prepare for the long ride or those who would like to start in the 50-Mile Ride with the idea of going on the long ride another year.
2. The Ride will start each day promptly after the last 100 Mile contestant has departed, approximately 8:30 a.m. Contestants start individually.
3. The course will be marked by arrows as follows:

1st day - 20 Miles

2nd day - 20 Miles

3rd day - 10 Miles

4. The conditions set forth for the 100-Mile Ride will govern the 50-Mile Ride and the 30-Mile Ride, except for the following:

a. The horses will be judged on manners and condition. Manners are defined as attitude of horse, manageability and suitability of the horse to the task at hand.

b. There will be Judges who are completely familiar with horses and pleasure trail riding. They will select the best horse on the ride to be awarded the Grand Champion award and the second best horse for Reserve Champion. Then select the next six best horses in each division. There will be NOVICE, LIGHTWEIGHT, MIDDLEWEIGHT, and HEAVYWEIGHT divisions. The NOVICE Division is for any horse not having competed in a 50-mile or 100-mile ride.

c. All horses that complete the Ride satisfactorily will receive a ribbon. A permanent trophy and a replica will be awarded to the Grand Champion. The Reserve Champion will receive a trophy. The Challenge Plate is for the oldest participant to complete the Ride and is donated by Mrs. Elizabeth D. Lane.

d. Scoring is made on the basis of 40% for manners, and 60% for condition. There will be scoring penalties for being under or over the time allowed.

Allotted Time:

3½ to 4½ hours..... First & Second Days

1¾ to 2½ hours.....Third Day

The horses for both rides will be vetted on Monday between 1:00 and 4 p.m. only. Please be on time.

## CONDITIONS OF 30 MILE RIDE

1. The object of the 30-Mile Ride is to have a pleasure ride of a competitive nature.
2. The course will be marked by arrows as follows:  
1st day - 20 miles 2nd day - 10 miles
3. The conditions set forth for the 100-Mile Ride will govern the 50 and 30-Mile Rides, except as follows:
  - a. The horses will be judged on manners and condition. Manners are defined as attitude of horse, manageability and suitability of the horse to the task at hand.
  - b. There will be Judges who are completely familiar with horses and pleasure trail riding. They will select the best horse on the ride to be awarded the Grand Champion award and the second best horse for Reserve Champion. Then select the next six best horses in each division. There will be NOVICE, LIGHTWEIGHT, MIDDLEWEIGHT, and HEAVYWEIGHT, and JUNIOR Divisions.
  - c. Scoring is made on the basis of 40% for manners, and 60% for condition. There will be scoring penalties for being under or over the time allowed.

Allotted Time:

3½ to 4½ hours .... First Day

1¾ to 2½ hours .... Second Day

The horses will be vetted on Sunday between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Please be on time.

For an emergency, the Homestead Hotel telephone number is (540) 839-3800.