



# Summer Hauling

*The Educated Horseman: Management Series*



The opportunities for “horsing around” are endless during the summer. Horse shows, competitions, sales and trail rides are just a haul away. But the hot and humid conditions of a Louisiana summer can pose serious health problems for your horse – particularly during hauling.

Dehydration, heatstroke and exhaustion are just some of the ailments that need to be prevented while traveling with your horse.



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## References

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Follow these hot-weather hauling safety tips to prevent any detour from your summer fun:

- Avoid hauling during the warmest time of the day.
- Open trailer vents to create airflow throughout the trailer. Do not allow your horse to ride with its head out of the trailer window because flying debris and bugs can cause serious eye injuries.
- Stop and check your horse's vitals and offer water every four to five hours. Each stop should last a minimum of 20 minutes to allow your horse to relax and rest.
- Park in shaded areas with air movement.
- Carry ample drinking water for your horse while en route. It is not recommended to leave hanging water buckets in the trailer while hauling, however, because sudden stops can lead to spilled water, slippery floors, and other potential hazards to your horse.
- If you are stuck in traffic on a highway, ensure as much ventilation as possible inside the trailer, without unloading the horses.
- Make sure your vehicle is in top towing condition before leaving. Ensure all of the tires on your truck and trailer are fully inflated, while they are cool before traveling. In hot weather, fully inflated tires flex less and therefore ride cooler, which decreases the chances of a blowout.
- Use two rubber mats on the trailer floor. This will reduce the heat on your horse's legs.
- If your destination is more than 12 hours away, unload your horse and give it an eight-hour break from the trailer.
- Make sure to have copies of all important identification paperwork (Coggins, health certificate, etc.)

As always with horses, expect the unexpected. While you cannot plan for every situation, by taking a few precautions and practicing some common sense, you can help to ensure that you and your horse arrive safely at your destination.