



Tips for long-distance Hauling

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TIPS FOR LONG-DISTANCE HAULING

Pre-trip checks:

- Keep truck/trailer maintained regularly, re-check oil before departure
- Check tire pressure and tread depth on truck/trailer, including spare
- Check brakes and wiring to the trailer
- Know your truck/trailer
- Learn weight and licensing restrictions for your route
- Upgrade AMA membership to RV coverage
- Plan your route and fuel stops – opt for truck stops
- Plan and book layover stops in advance using Google or local vets

Equip your trailer:

- Have a first-aid kit for humans and horses
- Pack water buckets for all of the horses, and enough hay for the trip and the first two days
- Pack blankets that suit the travel as well as the destination
- Pack spare halters and lead ropes in case one breaks
- Carry bran to feed at layover stops you may have (helps relax and hydrate)
- Pack a small tool kit for minor repair (hammer, wrench, screwdriver)

Preparing your horses:

- Make sure coggins and health papers are current
- Ask your vet or a customs official of restrictions or quarantines for your route
- Feed electrolytes in advance of departure to start well hydrated
- Bandaging legs is a personal choice, but if done make sure they're not too tight, not too loose

While on the road:

- Drive smoothly and stay in the right lane
- Leave plenty of room between your rig and other vehicles
- Give yourself enough room to stop, know your weight and your brakes
- Signal early, accelerate and decelerate gradually
- It isn't necessary to unload horses on long trips, and sometimes it's more dangerous to do so
- Use stops to refuel as a chance to check the horses and let them rest

Finally, once you have arrived prepare your stall with lots of bedding and fresh water. A nice 15 minute hand walk can help to loosen up those stiff legs and bodies. A good drink and a roll is all they'll need to settle in, but keep an eye on them in the day or so after arrival to make sure they acclimatize well.

Safe travels everyone!