

Trail Use and Etiquette at South Keswick

The network of hiking and riding trails in South Keswick is a precious resource for our community, adding greatly to our quality of life. The trails and roads throughout our neighborhood exist as *non-exclusive easements* for use by South Keswick residents and their guests. While all trails and roadways are maintained by the South Keswick Owners Association, the land on which the trails are located belongs to the respective owners over whose lots the trails pass, not to the community as a whole. Therefore, please be considerate when using the trails and remember you are a guest on others' property.

Right-of-Way on the Trails

- In general, for the safety of riders, horses, hikers and cyclists, horses always have the right of way.
- Cyclists:
 - Yield to horses and hikers.
 - When a horse is approaching, please dismount your bicycle and move off the trail until the horse safely passes.
 - When you approach a horse from behind, please call out to the rider to let them know you want to pass. Wait for the horse to stop or move off the trail, then walk your bicycle past the horse.
- Motorized vehicles are not allowed on trails, except in conjunction with authorized maintenance activities.

Animals on the Trails

Wildlife

- Please do not harm or harass any type of wildlife on the trails or within the South Keswick community, per state laws.
- If you find wildlife you believe to be injured or orphaned, call the **Wildlife Center of Virginia (540-942-9453)** for advice before intervening.

Dogs

- Dogs must be leashed or under control at all times while on the trails or roadways.
- All dog poop must be removed from roadsides and neighbors' yards. Dog poop on trails should be moved to the side within the easement or removed completely.

Horses

- Please try to keep your horse moving when it is defecating to prevent piles of manure from inconveniencing other trail users.
- All horse manure dropped on or beside paved roads should be removed within 12 hours.
- On trails, significant piles of manure should be raked out or removed to the side of the trail within 24 hours.

Guests and Visitors

- The community trail system and lake are available for use by residents of South Keswick, their houseguests, and accompanied visitors only. All others may be considered trespassers.
- Please make sure unaccompanied houseguests know how the trails are marked.

Additional Trail Information

- If you lose the path while on a trail, backtrack to the nearest road or trail intersection. Do not climb fences or cross adjacent private property to find the trail or nearest road.
- If you notice a trail maintenance or safety issue along the trail, such as downed limbs or trees, erosion, or damaged bridges, please promptly report the situation to the SKOA trails committee or the SKOA board.

Be safe and enjoy the trails!