

Rawhide!

Horses may be man's next best friend (after the dog) but they remain fearful creatures who are nonetheless very strong! So each time that a character saddles up for a ride, the rider should likely make a *Ride* test, modified by the terrain and other factors (see below).

Riding mechanics

Gait	Mov Rate	Speed	Test required	Rider's <i>Ride</i> test	Mount's <i>Endurance</i> test
Walk	Cautious	4 mph	Never*	Never*	Never
Trot	Standard	8 mph	Once per day	average Str & Dex	Never
Canter	Burst [^]	10-17 mph	Once per ½ hour	+ modifiers	Toughness
Gallop	Running	25-30 mph	End of each turn	(see below)	+ modifiers (see below)

* Unless the rider is a novice (unskilled), in which case test once per day.

[^] This unusual movement rate describes a pace that is comparable to a fast jog for humans. It is much harder for both horse and rider than the trot. For more details, please refer to my *Horse Breeds* article.

Riding modifiers

Modifier	Riding conditions (The going is...)	Other factors
+30	<i>Firm</i> – path, track, trail or lane	Rider is legendary cavalier (skill x3)
+20	<i>Good</i> – fields, pastures or crops	Rider is famous cavalier (skill x2)
+10	<i>Hard</i> – cobbled road, street or dry earth	Rider is skilled cavalier
-	<i>Mixed</i> – countryside, inc. hedgerows, walls, streams, fences, etc.	Rider is a novice
-10	<i>Soft</i> – mud, sand or freshly-tilled fields	Mount encumbered, tired or bareback
-20	<i>Heavy</i> – water-logged fields or swamps	Wolves or dogs nearby
-30	<i>Tough</i> – broken, rocky or frozen ground	Mount severely wounded (W = 2-3)
-40	<i>Dense</i> – thick forest, deep snow	Mount critically wounded (W = 0-1)

Extra modifiers (cumulative)

Docile horse = +10

Aggressive horse = -10

Riding at night = -10

Rider's injured = varies from -10 to -30 (see *Injury modifiers* on GM screen)

Riding results

Rider's <i>Ride</i> test	Description
Incredible pass	<i>Mount trusting</i> – enjoyable and rewarding ride (mount will now respond to simple, verbal command once per day).
Stunning pass	<i>Mount appreciative</i> – calm and soothing ride (rider gains +10 Initiative).
Definite pass	<i>Mount indifferent</i> – gentle and uneventful ride (+10 to next <i>Ride</i> check).
Lucky pass	<i>Mount unsure</i> – spirited and occasionally unruly ride
Unlucky failure	<i>Mount nervous</i> – difficult and tense ride (-10 to next <i>Ride</i> check).
Terrible failure	<i>Mount spooked</i> – mount unexpectedly scared and so suddenly gallops off in a random (D8) direction. Rider must pass <i>Ride</i> test to rein in the mount.
Disastrous failure	<i>Mount angered</i> – without warning the mount rears! Rider must pass <i>Ride</i> test or been thrown with damage equal to a fall of D4 yards to a random location.
Horrific failure	<i>Mount spiteful</i> – same as above except that the mount also bolts! 50% chance that contents of saddlebags broken/bent (determine randomly).

Mount's Tough test	Description
Incredible pass	<i>Takes it his stride</i> - mount thunders on, barely breaking a sweat (+10 to next Toughness test & +10 to any <i>Ride</i> tests)
Stunning pass	<i>Coping</i> - mount hurtles on, nostrils flared and flanks working hard (+10 to next Toughness test)
Definite pass	<i>Soldiers on</i> - mount careers on, foaming at the mouth and flanks glistening with sweat
Lucky pass	<i>Flagging</i> - mount starts to wane but struggles on (-10 to next Toughness test).
Unlucky failure	<i>Tired</i> - weary mount gradually slows to a trot. Until he recovers (after a 4-hour trot or 2-hour walk) he's worn out (-1/-10 to all stats). A <i>Ride</i> test to coax him can be attempted every half hour.
Terrible failure	<i>Exhausted</i> - mount staggers to a halt. It remains resolutely till for almost an hour while it recovers. A <i>Ride</i> test is required every hour to coax him on. The mount's exhaustion (-2/-20 to all stats) can only be recovered after a full day's rest.
Disastrous failure	<i>Lamed</i> - mount whinnies in pain before staggering to an agonizing halt. Mount suffers -3/-30 to all stats for remainder of the day and, unless an <i>Animal Care - horse</i> test is passed, the mount will be permanently lamed (½ Mov).
Horrific failure	<i>Falls</i> - mount stumbles and trips before crashing to the ground. Both horse and rider suffer damage as for a fall of D4 yards (2D4-6W) to a random body location. If the mount survives it must pass a T test or is <i>lamed</i> (see above).

* If a mount's **Toughness** reaches 0, it collapses from exhaustion and dies 2 D6 minutes later.



References

The Enemy Within Campaign, page 7

[Wikipedia article on Horse Gaits](#)

[Wikipedia article on Horse Racing Conditions](#)

Personal experiences of horse riding & riding injuries