

GREETINGS, HOUNDS AND HUNTERS!

It was great to be out Wednesday for the first fall foxhunt of the 2022-23 season! We had a wonderful turnout and everyone looked sharp, riders and horses included.

As we kick off the season, we are also introducing our young entry—the hounds that were whelped in spring, 2021—to foxhunting, prompting us to reach out to all members with a few reminders about protocol in the hunt field, intended to protect the safety of hounds and riders.

HOUNDS

-**The hounds always have the right-of-way—always.** We realize this can be especially challenging when trying to get out of the way of young hounds, who are timid or skitter from side-to-side on the trails, weaving their way in and out of the field. When you hear “**ware hound,**” your best bet is to slow to a halt, turn your horse’s rear away from the hound, and let the hound pick its way around you. (And we would appreciate your not speaking to the hounds while hunting.) Our puppies will thank you!

ETIQUETTE

-There is a protocol for the **order of riders in the hunt field.** Unless your fieldmaster specifically gives you permission to “jump the line,” the order is Senior Members with Colors, then Intermediate and Junior Members with Colors, followed by Members without Colors and Guests. Do feel free, though, to ask the rider in front of you if you can move ahead of them, if there is a problem with the pacing. See page 27 in your hunt directory for more information.

-When asked to “**make way for staff,**” you are expected to move your horse to one side or the other of the trail and turn the horse’s rear away from the passing staff rider. (Ideally, all the riders move to the same side; follow the lead of your fieldmaster.)

ATTIRE

-Informal foxhunting attire includes white or neutral/drab polo shirts; or ratcatcher. **Please take a moment to review all the attire options that are listed in the hunt directory, page 29.** (If you are a new member and don’t have a directory, we are happy to provide one.)

-Bright colors in the hunt field are discouraged and red coats are verboten for all but the huntsman.

We so look forward to another great season of foxhunting and to welcoming our young hounds. Thank you for being part of it!

Your Masters of Foxhounds