



OTAGO HUNT INC GUIDELINES

The Hunt was founded in 1883 and has been operating since then. Most Hunts today, spar (drop the top wire and place a pole or picket) along the fence where possible. Otago has a Hunt farm at Maungatua, Berwick, where the hounds are kept. The Huntsman looks after this. We currently have about 30 hounds. Introductory jumping days are carried out at the farm as are pre-season hound fitness days. Otago generally starts Hunting at mid March, finishing mid to end of June. As well as Hunting, we hold training courses for teaching riders and horses to jump and a cross section of other social activities.

Etiquette

Showing good sport is the prime objective of the Master, deputy masters, huntsman and whippers-in. To achieve this, certain conduct is required. While promoting good sport it is also their desire to encourage caution as it is necessary to ensure the safety of riders and mounts. At the sound of the horn please be quiet and give the hounds and huntsman the room they require.

Respect for the Master and hounds

- The Master represents the authority of Master of Hounds. Follow the Master's instructions, listen carefully for announcements.
- Arrive at the meet correctly attired and in sufficient time to be mounted at the appointed hour.
- Upon arriving at the meet present your guests to the Master and take care of the cap with the field secretary if needed.
- Position yourself comfortably in the field. Do not ride in the Master's pocket, speak softly and don't address the field as a group. Turn your horse to face the hounds if it is nervous of them.
- Keep up close to the field. Do not straggle or wander off. This is particularly critical when going through gates. Always excuse yourself from the Master before leaving the field. The Master will advise you the way to go home and prevent you spoiling the hunting.
- Do not take short cuts. Follow the tracks of the field. This will prevent over-running hounds, other riders, or encountering unexpected hazards.
- Always thank the Master and huntsman at the end of the day
- It is polite for gentlemen to remove their hat while the Master is making a speech.

Respect for the field

- The order of the field is hounds, huntsman, whippers-in, master, deputy master, ladies, gentlemen, children.
- Maintain a safe distance between your horse and others (2 horse lengths).
- Do not crowd jumps unnecessarily or cross in front of other riders.
- Ride straight and collected at all fences.
- If your horse has a refusal go immediately to the rear and wait your turn again. Never try again and again while others are waiting their turn. If your horse cannot get over by the third time, look for a gate. You are only chopping up the ground and it will probably be faster and safer for your horse and yourself.
- It is assumed that each rider is a capable horse person and has a mount that is manageable. Please do not bring problem horses into the field. If you do, ride them right at the back of the field.
- If your horse is a kicker tie a red ribbon on the tail and ride out of the way to avoid accidents. A green ribbon means a green young horse and give it space.
- Warn riders following of dangerous obstacles in the field i.e holes, wire etc.
- An upraised hand is the signal for slowing or stopping.
- Hounds are vital to our sport. Learn to take an interest in their work.

Respect for Landowners

Hunting requires large areas of land. We must rely on the generosity of our landowners and their property in order to continue our sport. Good hunting country could be lost through acts of carelessness or ignorance on the part of a few. Therefore the following rules are aimed at courteous and responsible behaviour towards landowners who have granted the use of their property.

- Do not ride over ploughed land or planted crops lawns or young grass or soft areas.
- Please leave all gates and fences as they are found. If in doubt it is better to close a gate than risk letting stock out.
- Ride slowly around landowner's cattle or other stock so they are not disturbed.
- Do not leave rubbish behind. Pick it up and be tidy.
- Report any damage to fences.
- Stay for the Hunt Breakfast (afternoon tea) so you will be present when the Master thanks the property owners for the privilege of hunting over their land. All riders bring a plate to this at most hunts.
- Show your appreciation to the landowner.

Hunting Etiquette

- Always be careful of hounds. In a confined situation or on a roadway or track, face your horse's head towards the pack. When hounds are running, whenever possible, all should move in the same direction as the hounds. Ride with hounds, not alongside them or too closely behind them. Do not speak to hounds unless specifically asked to do so by the Master or huntsman. Always let a whip go first if they are in the field.
- When you hear "hold hard" stop immediately where you are. Do not move. Stand still and keep quiet. This is not a time to catch up or have a discussion.
- If it appears you are on the line, stay where you are. Hounds will work through the field and even around the legs of horses.
- Be very aware of any photos taken, their backgrounds and subjects. Please be very careful if posting on social media that there is nothing that can be misconstrued in any photos.

Hunting Dress

Dress is a significant part of hunting tradition for both safety and smartness. Only Hunt officials wear the full Hunt livery, which consists of red coat (traditionally referred to as "pink") for Master, Deputy Master and the Huntsman (four gold buttons on the coat for a Master and five for a hunt servant). All officials wear jodhpurs, gloves and stocks, black hunt caps or helmets and black boots with brown tops.

Official hunting attire for the field is:

Adults: Black coat with Weymuss tartan hunt collar (if awarded), gloves, white stock with stock pin, jodhpurs, black helmet, hairnets or ties for long hair and black boots.

Children: Riding jacket, tie or stock, white shirt, gloves, helmet, tied hair, jodhpurs and boots.

Because safety is paramount on the hunt field, safety helmets with a 3 point harness are essential. Raincoats are allowed on the field in poor weather conditions but must only be worn with the permission of the Master. With the permission of the master, safe and tidy riding attire (tidy jersey and tie) will be acceptable to new riders to the hunt while they are deciding if they enjoy hunting.

Spurs are removed before attending the Hunt Breakfast.

Hunting Terminology

Couple – hounds are referred to as couples (a pair of hounds) rather than counted as individuals

Pack Up – command used to gather all the hounds together behind the huntsman at the end of the day's hunting.

Get to Him – command to send the hounds back to the huntsman when they are out on their own.

Leave it – command to the hounds to not eat rubbish or do something they shouldn't be doing.

Drawing/Casting – sending hounds out to look for their quarry

Membership and Capping 2025

| | Frequent Hunter | Sub with Cap |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Riding | \$250.00 | \$150.00 |
| Junior (under 18) | \$180 | \$150.00 |
| Associate | | \$60.00 |

Capping

An open capping policy has been adopted where visitors may hunt on a cap as often as they wish. Current charges are \$50 per cap. Three caps may go towards your annual subscription should you decide to join after capping.

Visiting Members of any Hunt pay a cap of \$30 per hunt on proof of Hunt membership. Juniors pay \$10.

Contacts :

Master: Anne Beattie 027 489 1862

Field Secretary: Hannah 020 4052 4454

Huntsman: Jayne Beattie 027 844 4303