



Keep kauri safe while horse riding!

Key information for horse riding around Kauri in Auckland's Regional Parks

Having Auckland's rich and beautiful natural environment on our doorstep to be enjoyed is a privilege. Some of the trails that are popular amongst the equestrian community are under threat from kauri dieback and it is important that we take precautions when accessing these areas to ensure that we are not contributing to spreading the disease.



Kauri dieback disease is incurable and easily transmitted. It can remain viable, without a host for at least 10 years on a horseshoe or anything else that can collect a speck of soil.

For equestrians who enjoy riding in Auckland's Regional Parks, there are some simple things you can do to help stop the spread of kauri dieback.

Plan your ride.

The soil-borne pathogen that causes kauri dieback disease is particularly active during wet conditions. Because the pathogen is microscopic and even a speck of soil may contain thousands of spores, it is crucial to ensure that soil is not transported between kauri areas.

- Muddy conditions are particularly high risk, so avoid areas where it is boggy or visibly wet and ensure you wash all equipment and animals down before arriving on park and when returning back home.
- Ride in disease free areas first; if you ride across a number of open spaces, make sure you are aware of where the disease may or may not be present. Plan rides in disease free spaces before hitting the trails in a known site with Dieback present. Always clean thoroughly between these areas.

Preparation for your ride

To mitigate the risk of introducing kauri dieback to an area it is important that you arrive on site completely soil free. To achieve this, you need to do the following **before** leaving home for the day:

- Check out the Auckland Council website [regional park horse riding information](#) page, to see which parks may have known kauri dieback and those that are disease free. Knowledge is power, and in

this case will help you identify the risk level and plan your mitigation measures.

- Thoroughly pick-out your horses' hooves
- Wash down your horse float and vehicle.
- Clean your personal footwear with warm soapy water to remove any soil.
- Brush your horses coat to remove any soil that may be attached.
- Clean underside and surface of hooves and personal footwear with soapy water. Use Sterigene (2% dilution) when arriving onsite. Do not spray on animal skin.

Upon arrival

- Park your truck or horse float on a dry-gravel surface
- Tack-up your horse on a dry surface, either tied to your truck or using one of the yards that are provided on site. Note: if hitching rails are in place, utilise these as they have been placed on site in areas identified as appropriate for cleaning.
- Spray horse's' hooves with sterigene when provided.

During your ride

- **Stick to the tracks and follow the signs.** Tracks are designed to minimize risk to kauri by avoiding direct contact and/or high-risk environments such as muddy paths. Tracks may also be closed due to health and safety risks.
- **Avoid riding pugging up the ground** by taking alternate ride lines when possible.

Leaving for home

- Repeat the cleaning of hooves, footwear, and your horses' coat before leaving for home. Avoid taking any soil from your ride with you. Again, spray your horse's' hooves with sterigene if provided.
- To avoid spreading contaminated soil inside your vehicle, pack a second pair of footwear for the drive home.
- Contain any items that may spread soil through your vehicle to avoid contamination. Ensure items that are likely to come into contact with soil, e.g. your girth, stirrup irons, bell boots and tendon boots are contained within a saddle bag or grooming kit, ready to be washed when you arrive home.

Sterigene disinfectant

There may be concerns regarding the use of Sterigene on horses' hooves. This veterinary grade disinfectant is completely safe for use on hooves. When used as directed, Sterigene is diluted with water at 2% concentration. It is a microbial inhibitor with similarities to Koppertox which is commonly used to treat horse hooves for thrush.



For how-to guides and further information on kauri dieback:

<https://www.kauriprotection.co.nz/>

