

Hauser Exkursions' mule policy (April 2016)

Hauser Exkursionen supports the Expedition Provider's Association 'Charter of Care for Working Mules' and the Adventure Travel and Trade Association's Guide Standard. Hauser Exkursionen expects its agents to be familiar with these standards and to work to ensure they are implemented and respected. We expect you to appoint responsible people within your team(s) to take responsibility for mule welfare on each trek. They will need support and training to help them do this.

We place particular emphasis on the following:

1. Good relationships between the mule and mule handler are fundamental to good welfare. We therefore expect
 - a. Only head collars are used when mules are worked loaded or being led.
 - b. No mules are to be ridden in traditional bits.
 - c. Modern stainless steel bits can be used instead of traditional bits when mules are being ridden.
 - d. Muleteers and muleteering teams are to receive the necessary training, equipment and support to help them develop their skills, knowledge and ability. This should be made part of an annual staff training programme.
2. Feeding and watering is essential for healthy mules and good welfare
 - a. Every mule should be fed and watered properly. This means providing grazing (hay and grass) throughout rest periods and supplementing this with grain where appropriate. Over reliance on grain is to be discouraged.
 - b. Mules should be well watered before start of each working day. This will mean providing water over night and ensuring mules are hydrated before being offered food in the morning.
 - c. Do not feed mule with bit in. Mules must be allowed to chew freely.
 - d. Do not work mules immediately after feeding.
 - e. On trek days provide a water stop for mules.
3. Nose bags
 - a. Nosebag should have adequate ventilation to allow breathing.
 - b. When feeding is complete, nosebag should be removed to enable mule to continue drinking and grazing.
 - c. Nosebags should not be hung around a mule's neck with string. A wide, comfortable strap is needed.
4. Tethers and tethering
 - a. When tethered, leather padded, humane tethers only are to be used.
 - b. Nylon rope, plastic, chain, string or wire tethers should never be used.
 - c. Mules should be tethered in such a way that they can lie, walk, stand up, reach food, water and shade without tensioning tether.



5. Pack saddle / saddle blanket (Ahalass / Burdâa)

- a. The pack saddle should be removed and the back examined and groomed at the start and end of the day. This allows injuries to be identified and helps build the relationship between the handler and the mule.
- b. The pack saddle should be taken off at night.
- c. The pack saddle should be well maintained and not cause any injury to the back.

6. Burden / load

- a. Loaded mules must never be ridden.
- b. Observing ratios for when going gite/gite and camp/camp is essential to ensure mules are not overloaded.

7. Freedom from pain, injury and disease

- a. Muleteers and guides will need ongoing training in the assessment of mule health and welfare. They must be able to identify thin, weak, sick, lame mules.
- b. Ill or injured mules must not be worked.
- c. A replacement mule must be provided on the same day to enable the trek to proceed. Contact should be made with local veterinary services (SPANNA) to ensure the ill or injured mule is examined and receives the necessary care.
- d. A mule first aid kit must be carried on all treks and guides trained to help in the provision of first aid. In particular, they should be able to deal with saddles sores, cuts, wounds and other injuries.

SIGNATURE

THE AGENCY hereby confirms to have read and understood the mule policy in version "Hauser Exkursions' mule policy rev April 2016" and to accept and follow all the rules contained in it.

Date

Agency

On behalf of THE AGENCY (Name and Surname in print letters)

Signature and company stamp _____

