

Bridling & Saddling

With time and repetition, bridling and saddling will become easier. Simply follow the steps below and watch the videos in our YouTube library. You can always ask the instructor to step in and show you how to bridle and saddle or ask for a private training session with Emma. To view each step clearly, videos are also readily available via our Training Library.

How To Bridle

1. Attach cross ties to halter
2. Pick up bridle
3. Hang bridle on left arm in elbow
4. Put reins over horse's head
5. Stand behind left cross tie
6. Reach right hand under horse's head and detach right cross tie
7. Detach left cross tie using left hand
8. Detach clip of halter with left hand and slide off head and put into elbow of right arm
9. Hold bridle from crown piece in left hand
10. Hold cheek pieces in right hand
11. Feed bit gently into horse's mouth with left hand
12. Guide right ear under crown piece and then left ear
13. Attach throat latch ensuring 1 fist space between cheek and strap
14. Make sure noseband is under cheek pieces
15. Attach nose band ensuring 2 fingers space on top of nose
16. Make sure all straps are tucked into the keepers.

How to Saddle

1. Make sure stirrups have been adjusted to rider length posted on lesson whiteboard
2. Start on left side of horse
3. Check saddle pad for direction of placement - straps and brand sticker towards mane
4. Place saddle pad on horse's back over withers
5. Cross stirrups over saddle
6. Lift saddle with left hand on pommel (front) and right hand on cantle (back)
7. Gently lower the saddle onto horse's back
8. Gently push on pommel and slide saddle and pad into position until you feel resistance
9. Lift front of saddle pad into pommel to give withers room to move
10. On right side of horse, attach girth to billets starting on hole 1 or 2 at the end of the billet
11. Return to left side of the saddle, attach girth to billets starting at hole 1 or 2.
12. If the girth is very loose (not touching the horse), go up 1 hole on each side until the girth is snug (not tight).
13. Instructor will check position of saddle and tighten girth before participant mounts

14. Once finished, uncross stirrups and gently lower to horse's sides