

Fitting the Serreta

Noseband

It is important the serreta is fitted with care and properly adjusted. It can be extremely uncomfortable for the horse if the nose band is tightened too much, but if left too loose can also cause discomfort as the metal reinforced nosepiece (muserola) can twist to one side if the lead rope is pulled or handled harshly allowing the end on the pulled side to dig into the side of the horse's nasal bone. Another problem that can arise if too loose is that when the lead rope is pulled to one side the opposite cheek piece (opposite side to the handler) can raise up and irritate the horse's eye.

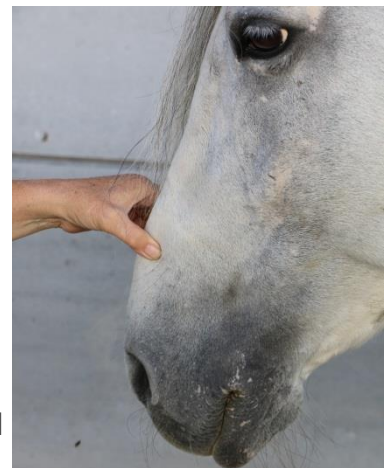
The noseband should therefore be a good snug fit but do not apply force and over tighten. For the reasons above, leaving it too loose is not a kindness to the horse either.

Cheek pieces / length

The horse's nose and nasal bone is a sensitive area so it is important that the lengths of the cheek pieces are adjusted so the nose piece sits in the correct position.

To find this position, gently squeeze in the area shown (right) and feel where soft tissue above the nostrils ends and the nasal bone begins.

The nose piece of the serreta should sit just above the soft tissue area where it rests snugly on bone all round its length.



Also do not fit higher up than this as you will find in most cases the nosepiece will be a poor fit and probably too narrow to fit comfortably.

Lastly, check the cheek pieces do not interfere with the horse's eye. Some horses may have a lower eye set than others, meaning the cheek piece can be close to the bottom of the eye and this situation worsened if the serreta is fitted a too loosely so it can move around a little when pressure is applied to the lead rope.

If this situation cannot be avoided then it would probably be better for the horse if a serreta fitted with a cheek strap (see bottom picture) is used.

