**Saddle/Bridle Fitting Operating Procedures**

Covid-19 Regulatory Compliance

It is important to have consistent measures in place so we can undertake your saddle or bridle fitting within social distancing guidelines. Where it is not possible or adhered to, we may need to consider whether the activity should continue and take all mitigating actions possible to reduce the risk of transmission between the fitter and our clients.

Are you, or anyone in your household undergoing self-isolation?

**If yes, we will not be able to proceed**

Are you or anyone in your household, pregnant, over 70 years or shielding?

**If yes, we will not be able to proceed**

The fitter may be wearing a face mask and/or shield and fresh disposable gloves throughout the appointment and may require that you do the same. Please avoid touching your face.

Horses will be tied, and rider moved away to a social distance whilst the fitter carries out the initial stages of a fitting appointment. If a horse cannot be tied, please refrain from asking for an appointment until restrictions are eased further.

We will terminate the appointment if we feel that social distancing is not maintained due to the horse’s behaviour or other matters of safety

If you have concerns about your horse’s behaviour under saddle which may cause harm to the rider, the horse, or others in the vicinity, we will not be able to proceed with the appointment.

**When clients attend our premises for a bridle or saddle appointment:**

* We will Instruct you where to park and the procedure upon arrival.
* Always maintain social distancing.
* Ensure you wash or sanitise your hands before, regularly during the appointment and on completion of the appointment.
* We will limit touching your tack and equipment as far as is possible. Your tack (including saddle, stirrup leathers, girth and numnah or pad) must be cleaned with soap before the appointment to allow us to proceed. Please ensure this is done before your arrival.
* Wipe down any equipment that was used during the appointment with a suitable viricidal cleaner.
* Avoid touching new saddles or other equipment not owned by yourself unless asked to do so
* Avoid touching gate handles, fences, jumps etc.
* Following the appointment, remove gloves when safe to do so and discard properly.
* Avoid bringing extra persons to your appointment apart from a parent, family member or instructor (Ensure the extra person has read, understands and also follows the fitting procedure).

Please note, the fitter is not allowed to help you mount your horse, however we will provide a mounting block

The fitter is also not allowed to check your girth once mounted, please ensure you are able to do this

To further reduce contact, all payments should be made in a contactless method, such as card, bank transfer at or prior to the appointment. You may also pay by cash where the cash is counted in front of the fitter and placed in an envelope.

Please ensure you have read and understand all the above.

When the appointment is made you will be asked to confirm this, and a questionnaire completed over the phone prior to finalising your appointment.

Many Thanks,

*Unicorn Saddlery*