

# PRACTICAL HORSE BITLESS BRIDLE FITTING GUIDE



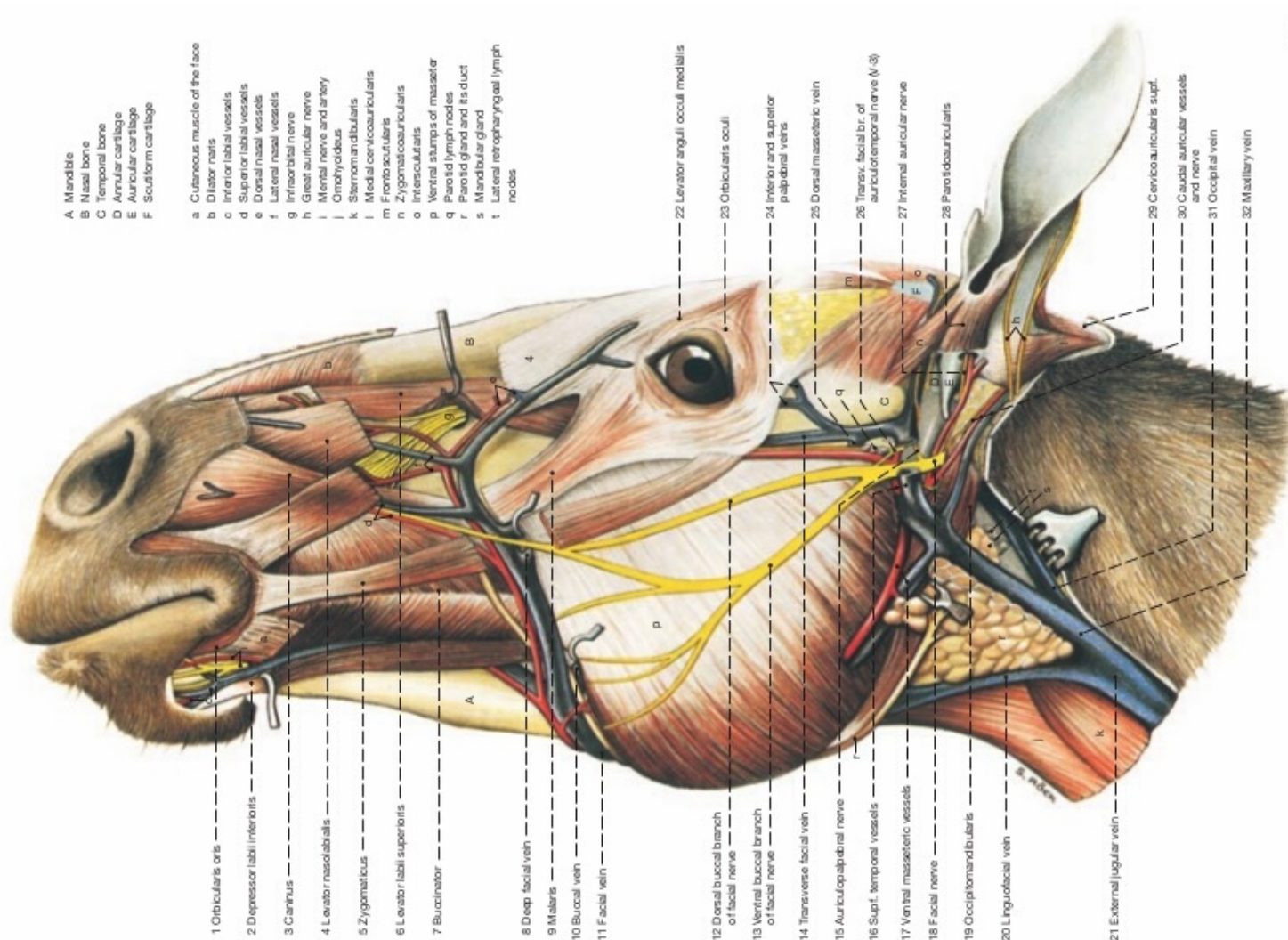
## About the Bridle:

The Practical Horse Bitless Bridle has been designed to anatomically fit the horses head and help reduce discomfort by avoiding major pressure points and nerves in the horses head.

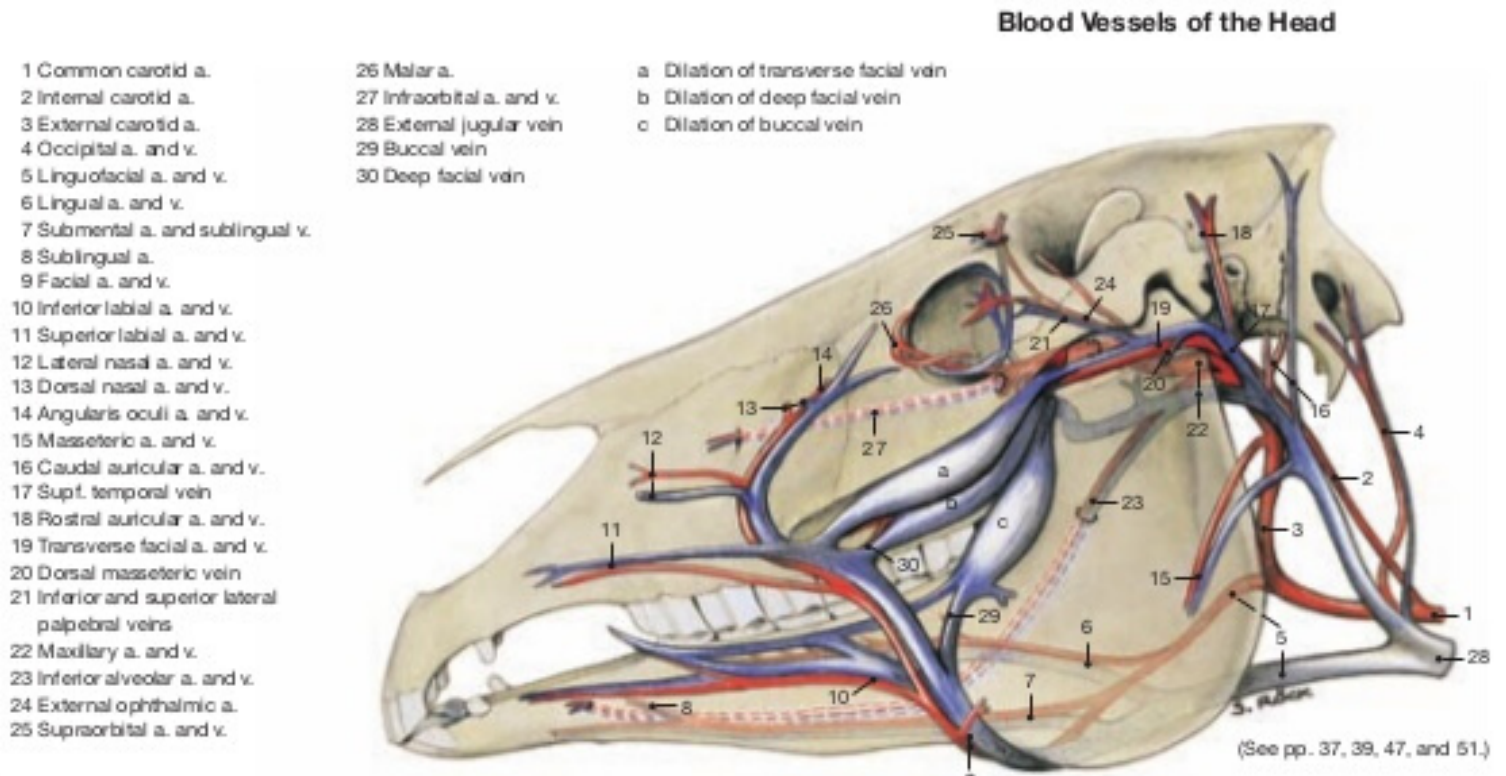
The thick padded headpiece helps distribute poll pressure and is anatomically cut away from the ears to reduce tension.

The throat strap is on a D ring so that the strap can move easily with the horse and reduce restriction or pressure around the horses throat area. We designed the noseband to be thick and padded as this is where the main pressure will be applied, it is also designed to fit lower than a cavesson noseband to avoid major nerves and pressure points in the head.

### Supf. Structures of the Head



The above picture shows the superficial structures in the horses head. As you can see the horses head contains a great deal of nerves (the yellow lines), which traditional bridles don't always avoid. The noseband is designed to fit below these nerves but not so low that it sits over the airways or that it is in danger of snapping the delicate nose bone - as seen in the picture below.



### Fitting the Bridle:

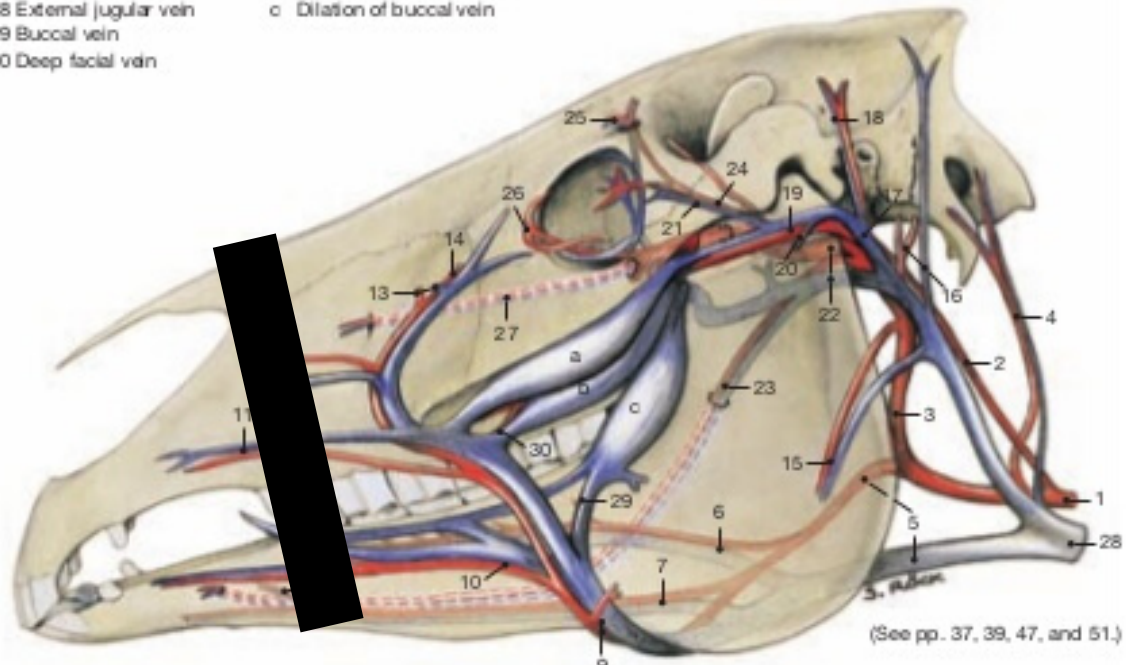
Every horse is slightly different so not every bridle will fit the same to each horse. When fitting the bridle you need to assess your horse's head first to find out where his airways are (these can be felt above the nostrils as seen in the picture above) and make sure the noseband does not completely cover them and restrict your horse's breathing. Next you need to make sure the noseband won't interfere with the mouth as this could cause internal injury such as cutting the tongue or cheeks on their teeth. The noseband should fit 1-2 inch above the corners of the horse's mouth. The throat strap should fit comfortably, not tight, around the horse's throat. Please see below for the ideal fitting of the noseband on this horse's head.

## Blood Vessels of the Head

- 1 Common carotid a.
- 2 Internal carotid a.
- 3 External carotid a.
- 4 Occipital a. and v.
- 5 Linguofacial a. and v.
- 6 Lingual a. and v.
- 7 Submental a. and sublingual v.
- 8 Sublingual a.
- 9 Facial a. and v.
- 10 Inferior labial a. and v.
- 11 Superior labial a. and v.
- 12 Lateral nasal a. and v.
- 13 Dorsal nasal a. and v.
- 14 Angularis oculi a. and v.
- 15 Masseteric a. and v.
- 16 Caudal auricular a. and v.
- 17 Supt. temporal vein
- 18 Rostral auricular a. and v.
- 19 Transverse facial a. and v.
- 20 Dorsal masseteric vein
- 21 Inferior and superior lateral palpebral veins
- 22 Maxillary a. and v.
- 23 Inferior alveolar a. and v.
- 24 External ophthalmic a.
- 25 Supraorbital a. and v.

- 26 Malar a.
- 27 Infraorbital a. and v.
- 28 External jugular vein
- 29 Buccal vein
- 30 Deep facial vein

- a Dilation of transverse facial vein
- b Dilation of deep facial vein
- c Dilation of buccal vein



### Using the Bridle:

The Practical Horse Bitless Bridle is a 'side-pull' action as this is thought to be the kindest form of bitless bridle.

Attach your reins to the metal rings either side of the noseband. There is also an attachment included that goes from the throat strap to the noseband so that the bridle can be used as a head collar for leading, tying up and lunging.

### Measurements:

Measurements (inches)	Extra Full	Full	Small Cob	Pony
Headpiece- Cheek to cheek	35	33	30	27.5
Headpiece- Between browband	16.5	15	14	13.5
Browband	16.5	16	15	14
Throat strap- Highest hole	23	22	19.5	18.5
Throat strap- Lowest hole	26	24.5	22.5	21
Noseband- Circumference smallest hole	26.5	25	22	21
Noseband- Circumference largest hole	29.5	28	26	23

*Browbands now available to purchase separately 2" bigger than standard.*

