

Working Equitation Yarra Valley Inc.



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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/workingequitation.yva/>

GEAR GUIDELINES

Less is more

At WEYV, we are of the opinion that 'less is more'. Equipment for handling horses should be effective without causing stress or injury, and gear should be designed for maximum safety of the handler and horse. Tack should be well made, correctly fitted and comfortable for the horse.

Classical training aims to train with respect for the horse. It avoids employing gadgets and gimmicks that force, trick or restrict the natural movements or habits of horses. We don't think there are quick fixes or magic pieces of tack that make our work easier. Often the times when we think we need stronger equipment to control a horse are the times when we need to rethink our training methods.

Preferred gear for leading, tying, in-hand work, lunging

- A halter and lead rope is the most common form of in-hand restraint.
- We prefer leather or webbing halters (rather than thin rope halters) as they are wider at the sensitive pressure points of the poll and the nose, if the horse should pull back or stand on the lead.
- The safest knots are those that can be quickly untied even if the horse has pulled on it.
- Tying should never be done from the bit. If the horse pulls back from a tie or gets loose, or stands on the lead rope, there is risk of severe damage to the mouth.
- Lunging can be safely done from a halter, bitless bridle or cavesson.
- Lunging from the bit, or in side reins, running reins or draw reins is not permitted at WEYV.

Bridles & Bits

- If you are competing at an HRCav event you will need to refer to the HRCav Event rules. Only saddlery and equipment specified in the discipline specific Rule Book is permitted at Official Events. <http://www.hrcav.com.au/default.asp?Page=1323>
- At WEYV rallies, clinics and unofficial events we have guidelines in relation to bridles:
 - Gear assistance and checks take place for each new combination
 - You are welcome to use a fitted bitless or a bitted bridle.
 - If you use a noseband it must be fitted loosely enough for the horse to chew naturally. (Two finger width fit between the nose and the band).
 - Crank, flash and drop nosebands are not recommended.
 - Martingales, side reins, running reins, draw reins are not permitted.
 - Please refer to the HRCav Dressage rules in relation to bits.
 - Ordinary single jointed snaffle bits with cheek pieces are useful for schooling dressage, and also for one-handed working equitation.

Saddles & Girths

- Any type of saddle may be used.
- For official HRCVA competitions, if a single buckle girth is used the HRCVA requires that the saddle be fitted with a surcingle as well.
- For official WE competitions (when available) you are able to compete in any saddle as long as you stick to the general cultural theme. (ie Western Horse, Western Saddle, Western dress. Spanish Horse, Spanish Saddle, Spanish dress etc.)
- Correct saddle fitting is a high priority for all ridden work. For horse welfare and your safety professional saddle fittings are recommended, and may be arranged at our rallies from time to time.