

A NOTE ON DDSP IN THE HARNESS HORSE

Robert Cook

I firmly believe that removal of the bit and the overcheck is the correct preventative for DDSP (laryngo-palatal dislocation). This opinion, based on the evidence I have accumulated (see many articles available online at www.bitlessbridle.com), has never been put to the test, only because no trainer has yet been able to use the Bitless Bridle in a harness race.

I am equally convinced that removing the bit will increase a horse's performance. One piece of metal in the mouth is an impediment to breathing, two is akin to deliberate handicapping. As breathing and striding are synchronized (certainly in pacers and probably in trotters too), a horse that can breathe more freely will also stride better. From other disciplines, I know that horses develop a longer stride when ridden in the Bitless Bridle. Speed in the racehorse is correlated with length of stride. The longer the stride the faster the horse.

We have developed a prototype bridle for the harness horse.