



A guide to show you the information that you are likely to need to provide to a BALANCE registered Functional Saddling Consultant, to do a Distant Consultation.



Please note that this is a guide only, and you will need to discuss the specific requirements with the BrFSC that you plan to work with.

Horse, Rider & Saddle Details Form

How did you hear about BALANCE and/or Functional Saddling?

Details of Owner of Horse

Name:

Address:

Town

State/Province/County

Post/Zip Code

Country

Daytime phone number:

Evening phone number

Email:

Mobile/Cell/handy:

Details of Horse

Name

Age

Height

Sex

Breed

Type of work the horse does:

Current level of health and fitness:

Type of riding done:

Current Saddle Details

Make

Width

Length

Style

Rider details

Height

Weight

Adult

Child (Age)

Level ridden at:

What style of Saddle do you like to ride in ?

Dressage

General Purpose/Dressage

General Purpose/ Jump

Jump

Other (please specify)

Past Saddle/Horse History

Are you aware of any current saddle related problems with your horse? YES NO

If you have answered Yes to the above question, please enlarge using extra pages as necessary

I agree that the information on this form may be held by BALANCE or a BALANCE registered Saddling Consultant for use in connection with providing information and support to the above named person and their horse. (These details will not be passed on to any other company or person, without your permission.)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

How to take two Back Profiles of your Horse

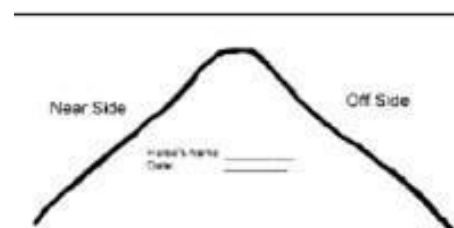
You Will Need:

- 1. A FLEXIBLE CURVE 24" (61cm) LONG** (used by architects /artists for Technical Drawing). Available from good office supplies shops or from BALANCE.
 - 2. A PIECE OF PAPER, NO LESS THAN 11"x 17"** (28cm x 43cm)
 - 3. TWO MARKER PENS OR FELTTIPS OF DIFFERENT COLOURS.**
- Lay your paper out on a flat surface close to the horse and weigh it down to avoid it blowing away while you work with the flexi curve!
 - Have the horse standing on a level surface and standing as 'square' as possible.
 - Take the flexi-curve and bend into a soft curve.
 - Approach the horse and allow the horse to look at and investigate the flexi-curve if he/she wants to. Locate the back edge of the horse's shoulder blade, and then place the flexi-curve over the 'withers' at a point approximately 1½ - 2½" (4-7cm) back (toward the tail) from the shoulder blade. You are going to be taking your profile from the part of the horse over which the points of a straight pointed tree would sit. GENTLY mould the flexi-curve to the contour of the horse's back on both sides taking care not to allow it to slide out of position.
 - Lift the curve off the horse without distorting the shape and lay it flat on the paper you have laid out.
 - Draw a line around the inside of the curve and mark which side shows the near (left) side and which is the off (right) side of your horse.
 - Put the horse's name and the date on the profile.
 - Having done this, it is a good idea to return the flexi-curve to the horse to double check that the curve has held the correct shape.

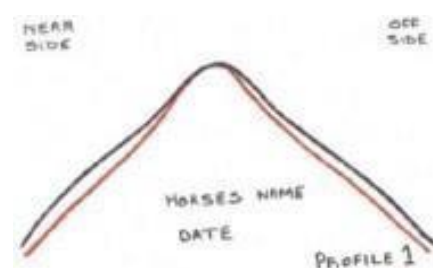


Two back profiles are required, the first taken at the start of the session, before the horse has been ridden. The second, taken after riding in your own saddle. Use different colours for each back profile, and match them at the top/centre.

When you have taken your first back profile it should look like the diagram below



When you have taken your second back profile it should look like the diagram below





Some thoughts on Distant Consultation Data Gathering

We appreciate that this process may, look complicated, but as we cannot see you and your horse in person, we have to rely on you giving us enough information to assess your needs and to give you our opinion on which saddle and pad combination we think is most appropriate and work well.

The decision to change to a different saddle is a statement about how committed you are to doing the best for your horse and we want to help you to achieve the best results that we know are possible.

It is important to provide all of the information asked for because all of it is important and necessary when trying to help a horse and rider from a distance. So please work your way through the list and be willing to send it all. If you skip things, it will take a lot longer to help you, because you will be asked to send the missing information before help or guidance is provided.

Do you have access to a BALANCE saddle?

If you have access to a BALANCE saddle that seems to work for your horse and that you can use in the photographs and/or video, please include some extra shots/clips of you and your horse in this saddle.

Even if you feel you would prefer a variation on the style, length etc, the information gained through seeing you and your horse in a saddle that we are very familiar with, will most certainly help us to help you.

14 Photographs required for a Horse/Saddle/ Rider Assessment

Firstly, stand your horse on a level surface and standing as square as possible.

For shots 1 to 5 the horse should not be wearing a saddle. The 14 required photo shots are:

1

Take one photo of the horse sideways on, **from each side**. Make sure the whole horse, including feet, is in the photograph. **(2pics. total)**



2

Stand at the horse's hip and take a photo looking towards the horse's wither/back of shoulder. Again do this **from each side. (2pics. total)**



3

Take one photo from directly behind the horse, taking care to stand at a safe distance. Make sure the photograph contains the full rear view of the horse including the feet. **(1pic.)**



4

If possible, take one photo from above and behind your horse. Include the whole of the horse's back and neck in this photo. You need to stand on something solid (stable) to do this e.g. a mounting block and be relatively near the horse. **ONLY TAKE THIS PHOTO IF YOU FEEL IT IS SAFE TO DO SO. (1pic.)**



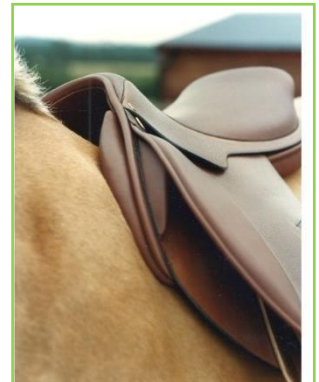
5

Take 1 photograph of the horse from the side with the flexi-curve in position as for taking a back profile so that we can see that you have laid it across correct place. **(1pic)**



6

Take 4 photographs of the horse wearing his current saddle without any pads or blankets. Take one photograph from each side, one from the rear (from a safe distance) and one to show the shape and clearance of the front of the saddle **(4pics.total)**



7

Take another 3 photographs of yourself sitting on the horse with his current saddle (*still without pads or blanket if sufficient clearance over the withers. BALANCE recommends the use of a hard hat when mounted.*

If your saddle sits too close to the wither to use alone, please use your regular pads under the saddle to take this shot).

As in #6, take one photograph from each side and one from the rear (from a safe distance). **(3pics.total)**



You should have 14 photos in total if you have followed these guidelines.

To VIDEO your horse to assist in Horse/Saddle/Rider assessment

Please video the following clips:

1. The tacking up process in the horse's own equipment, including any pads normally used.

* The riding sections numbered 2 to 6 need to be done on a loose rein or an un-restricting rein contact, but obviously, only to the degree that you feel is safe for you.



2. The horse ridden in walk in both directions in the saddle and pads that you currently use.
3. The horse ridden in walk directly away from the camera.
4. The horse ridden in walk directly towards the camera.
5. The horse ridden in trot (posting) in both directions on a large circle.
6. The horse ridden in trot (posting) going directly away from the camera.
7. At this stage pick up a more positive rein contact if necessary
8. The horse in canter in both directions on a large circle (not necessary if horse is very green or not sound enough).
9. *If you jump your horse*, please include a few shots of the horse jumping a couple of small fences.

* It is really important that, having completed all of the above, we see some footage of you riding your horse as you would usually do, please identify this section otherwise it is not always clear whether you always ride on a loose rein or whether you have forgotten to include some footage of you riding as you would usually ride!

10. Lastly, please video the un-tacking of the horse, so we can see the posture of the horse after riding and after removing the pads, please show the actual saddle from the front, so we can see its shape and width and then show the back, so we can see the angle of the panels, width of the gullet etc.

Also, if other people ride your horse and are likely to ride in the BALANCE saddle should you decide to purchase one, we will need some footage of their riding as well.

* If you can make a copy of the video for your own future reference, you should do so. BALANCE will not return photo's, DVDs etc, so do not send anything that you haven't made copies of, if it is important to you.

You can burn video and photographs onto a DVD, or copy onto a USB stick, if you are posting the data in a package, or you could upload to WeTransfer or similar if sending in a digital format. The file is likely to be too much too large to email!

Distance Consultation information required for horses who are not currently being ridden



Please supply the following to make up the video of your DC packet:

The horse being walked in-hand, lunged and/or long-reined doing the following:

1. The horse in walk in both directions on a large circle.
 2. The horse in walk directly away from the camera.
 3. The horse in walk directly towards the camera.
 4. The horse in trot in both directions on a large circle.
 5. The horse in trot going directly away from the camera.
 6. The horse in trot directly towards the camera.
 7. The horse in canter in both directions on a large circle
(not necessary unless the horse is safe, comfortable and balanced doing so).
- If possible, please then show all of the ridden section requested for the DC video, on a different horse, so that we can see your riding style etc.
 - Please make a clear note on your pack that the horse being ridden is not the horse you want to be assessed for an appropriate saddle.

Do you have everything you need to send?



The "Horse and Rider Details" form filled in and signed?

Two Back Profiles as described?

The photographs listed as required?

Video clips listed as required?

Any other information that you feel is relevant?

***Please remember that this data will not normally be returned to you, so please make copie for yourself and keep them for reference.

When you have gathered all of your information together you can check with the Consultant you are working with, where they want the information sent to.

They may be happy for you to send some information and even the photos and video to them in a digital format, but the back profiles do need to be seen in their original paper version to assess their correct shape.