



## **SADDLE REFLOCKING INFORMATION**

### **PLEASE READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY**

This document provides some important information for clients whom have had their saddles reflocked by Holistic Horse Bodyworks, LLC. It is not intended to fully explain all aspects of saddle reflocking. Please read this document carefully. Contact Ilene Nessenson if you have any questions.

1) First and foremost, thank you for your commitment to your horse's well being. A well-maintained saddle is one key component of your partnership with your horse as well as your horse's physical and mental health.

2) Your reflocked saddle contains high quality wool that has been washed, picked and carded (combed). As such, the wool may tend to settle, especially during the first 6-8 weeks of use after reflocking. It is suggested that you bring your saddle in or ship your saddle back for a flocking recheck between week 6-8 post reflocking. The flocking recheck can also be performed during an equine massage or saddle fitting appointment if **prior arrangements are made by you** with Ilene Nessenson. Failure to make arrangements for a flocking recheck can potentially cause issues for both horse and rider. Additional wool will be added to your saddle during the flocking recheck if needed. There is no charge for the time involved in the flocking recheck. There may be up to a \$15 charge for additional materials. However, if your flocking recheck occurs more than 120 days after the reflocking, time and materials charges may apply.

3) Many saddle manufacturers and saddle reflockers recommend riding a newly reflocked saddle without a saddle pad for 20 hours. This enables your horse's sweat to be absorbed through the saddle panel into the new wool inside the saddle to better mold the wool to the specific contours of your horse's back. That said, there are some saddle professionals who do not recommend this. In an ideal situation, your saddle pad is not an integral part of proper saddle fit. However, in some cases, the saddle pad is part and parcel of the overall saddle fit. If that is the case and you have decided you want to enable your horse's sweat to be absorbed through the saddle panel into the wool, after riding, you may consider removing the saddle pad and riding your horse without the pad at

the walk only for 15 minutes. This is not a guarantee that no injury to your horse will occur. At a minimum, be sure to check for adequate withers clearance after removing your saddle pad, even if you are only riding at the walk. This is accomplished by placing two fingers in a vertical position under the front portion (pommel) of your saddle while standing still and in motion. If the saddle pinches your fingers, there is not adequate withers clearance. Discontinue riding without a saddle pad (though riding with a saddle pad does not mean your saddle fits properly and has adequate withers clearance.) **IMPORTANT NOTE:** The flocking recheck should occur between weeks 6-8 post reflocking regardless of whether you ride your saddle with or without a saddle pad.

4) You should have your saddle rechecked annually by an experienced saddle reflocker to ensure the wool is still in good working order. Many saddles should be reflocked annually. Holistic Horse Bodyworks provides free annual rechecks for saddles we have flocked.

5) Maintaining the wool flocking inside your saddle is an important component of your horse's health, but it does not mean the saddle fits your horse properly. Even a brand new saddle that has been well flocked may not fit your horse. Saddle reflocking is no different. If you have questions or concerns about proper saddle fit, Ilene Nessenson at Holistic Horse Bodyworks is happy to assist you. Saddle fitting services and rates are located at [www.holistichorsebodyworks.com](http://www.holistichorsebodyworks.com) Saddle fitting is not automatically included in the saddle reflocking services or rates. Saddle fitting and saddle reflocking are two distinct but related aspects of overall equine care.

Thank you for choosing Holistic Horse Bodyworks to assist you and your equine partner. Your business is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact us with any questions by phone at (503) 867-1023 or via email at [ilene@holistichorsebodyworks.com](mailto:ilene@holistichorsebodyworks.com)