

Identify Resistance

Does your horse resist his current bit? If so, your horse is not relaxed in the bridle. Therefore, your communication is ineffective. Take a moment to learn the signs of resistance.

1. Behind the bit
2. Inversion/above the bit
3. Not stopping/running through the bit
4. Overactive mouth

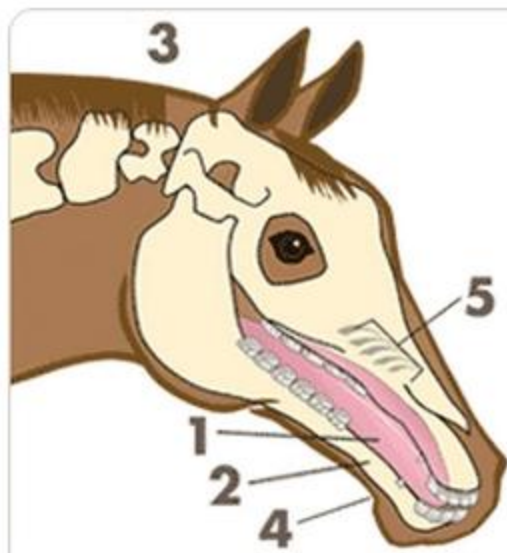
Gain Control

When managing resistance issues with your horse, consider a softer approach. Offering your horse a bit with less points of pressure can allow your horse to better receive your commands.

Issue	Suggestion
Behind the Bit	Try a bit with less tongue pressure and possibly Independent Side Movement.™
Inversion	Try a bit with tongue pressure and tongue relief.
Not Stopping	Consider a shank or combination bit with leverage pressure and mouthpieces offering some tongue, bar and palate pressure.
Overactive Mouth	Look for a bit which offers less points of pressure, especially tongue pressure.

Equine Mouth Structure

Knowing the equine mouth is crucial to proper biting. Look inside. How is your horse's dental health? What do the bars and palate reveal? How thick and wide is that sensitive muscle, the tongue, where pressure and relief give the bit its main means of control? Though not part of the mouth, the chin and poll (located at the second vertebrae) both receive pressure from the bits. The chin, or curb, is affected by the bit's curb strap: the poll receives downward pressure through the headstall.



1. Tongue

2. Bars

3. Poll

4. Curb
(Chin)

5. Palate