

I'm all ears and eyes...



Monday 10.4.23

As SMS Qualified Saddle Fitters we are required to attend regular CPD (continual professional development) events, this is something I enjoy and I always come away with plenty of take away points. One such event was a presentation by Dr Russell Mackenzie-Guire on laterality in horses.

It was interesting to learn the eyes and ears have different jobs dependant on which side they are on:

Right ear - listens when its a friend

Left ear - if they hear a stranger

Left eye - is the flight eye and reacts more so

Right eye - is the processing eye

How often do we see this when riding, the horse is more reactive on one rein? It also makes sense as to why horses prefer the handler on the left.

Perhaps this is why the wise horsemen's understanding of horse behaviour in centuries gone by still influences modern day practices - approaching and leading on the left...