

Common Equipment Worn by the Trotter

1 Open bridles allow a horse to see in all directions. Bridles are made of various straps, either leather or synthetic, that fit over the head of the horse, allowing the driver to control the horse through the use of a driving bit.

2 Headpoles attach to a ring on the head halter (which is underneath the bridle) and runs the length of the horse's neck to the harness. They prevent the horse from bending its neck while turning its head; if the horse wants to carry his head to the left, you put the headpole on the right side.

3 Buxtans are designed to keep the harness in place. Three points of attachment will prevent the harness from moving further back than the ideal position, just behind the withers.

4 Trotting hoppers go around the front legs as a gentle reminder to stay on gait. Some have a strap that reaches back to the racebike to adjust the length/tension and others are attached to the girth.

5 Harnesses are the basic equipment that every horse wears to jog, train and race. They consist of the saddle (the part that goes on the horse's back just behind the withers), the girth (which goes underneath the belly and is tightened to keep the saddle in place), the crupper (a loop that goes from the saddle back to underneath the tail to prevent the saddle from moving forward) and the saddle pad (which cushions the saddle on the withers).

6 Driving lines are the steering mechanism for the driver to determine the direction and speed of the horse. The lines attach to the driving bit in the horse's mouth, run through the turrets on either side of the harness and extend back to the driver. Handholds attach to the lines and are utilized to give more control.

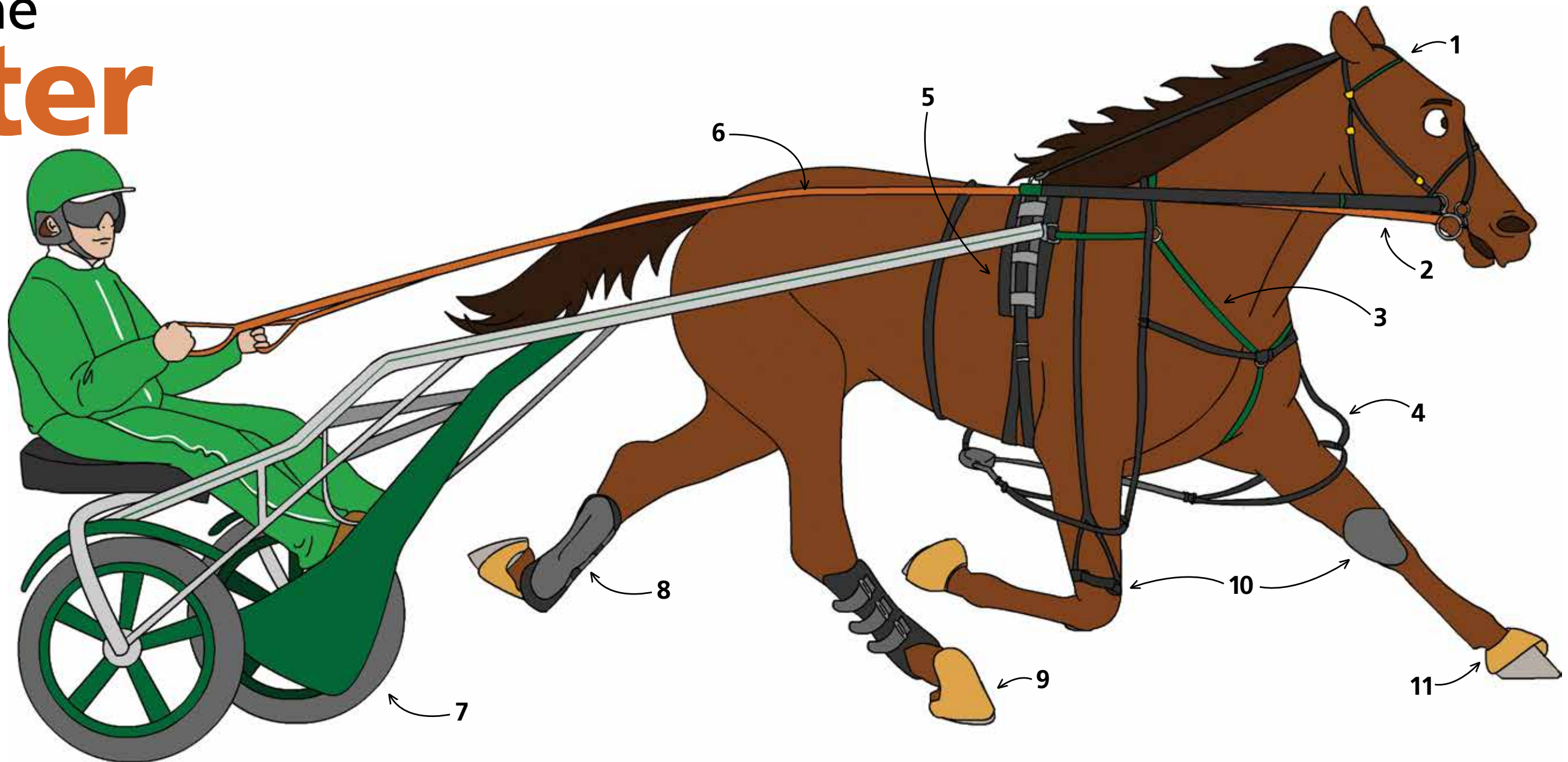
7 Jog carts are heavy-duty and used for everyday jogging and training. They keep the trainer further away from the horse and are generally more comfortable to sit in than a race bike.

8 Trotting boots (also known as hind shin boots) provide hind leg protection by covering the ankle up to, and sometimes including, the hock. Some have "speedy cuts" which protect the inside of the pastern, the area between the ankle and hoof.

9 Scalpers are made of a rubber/gummy material and cover the front of the hind hoof, the coronet band and part of the pastern. Because of their diagonal gait, trotters are prone to "scalping" their hind feet with their front feet.

10 Knee boots are worn by both trotters and pacers who strike the insides of their knees. **Suspenders** may be utilized, which attach to the knee boots, to ensure they stay in place.

11 Bell boots are made of a rubber/gummy material which goes over the entire front hoof to protect a horse from hitting itself; they may be worn by both trotters and pacer. Some trainers put a pair or two of bell boots on a trotter for extra weight up front to help stabilize their stride.



Provided courtesy of the United States Trotting Association