

# General Mini Harness Notes :

## **Harness:**

This harness is designed to be worn snug. It provides the single connection between the dog and the cart. If the harness is too loose, it will allow the Mini's tip to have too much movement as the dog moves which will result in a bouncy and uneven ride. The padding on the harness is very thick and will compress when the dog breathes so the harness should be worn snugger than normal.

To know if you have the harness adjusted properly, check these points:

- 1) The D-ring on the chest is right over the chest bone on the dog
- 2) When the Mini is empty, you should NOT be able to easily slip your fingers between the harness or padding and the dogs body.
- 3) When there is a rider in the mini (not just the weight bar) you should be able to slip 3 or 4 fingers under the dorsal pad and the dogs back.
- 4) When the mini is empty and there is no weight bar, the harness should seat on top of the dogs back and not slip to the side more than 2". I.e. the Mini's snaphook might lay to the side of the hasp, (the connection ring on the top of the harness) but not pull the harness over to the side of the dog.

Remove the harness to adjust it. Move the metal slider towards the center of the webbing and adjust the webbing. Try it on the dog until you get it adjusted correctly. When it fits right, move the sliders to the outsides of the webbing ends to lock the webbing in place.

**NOTE :The snaphook on the Mini's tip should be facing UP, i.e the button is on the top. This will mean that the dog will have to SIT for you to be able to get the snaphook connected to the HASP (the ring on the top of the harness) This is necessary so the button can not be accidentally pushed by the harness causing the snaphook to open. You may also have to put your hand inside the harness and tilt it to get the snaphook into the ring. This is normal and not difficult once you get the hang of it.**

## **Collar Scrunchies:**

Slip the scrunchie over the buckle end and over the D-ring so it rides on the collar in the front, between the 2 D-rings. It may be tight going over the D-ring, but that will keep it in place once it's positioned.

## **Double Ringed Collar:**

Adjust the collar to fit your dog's neck. It does not have to be tight, but should not slip off the head. Always keep the buckle at the top of the dogs neck, and the double webbing section under his throat.

## **Reins:**

Rope reins for the City Mini are approximately 8' per side. This is enough length for you to also walk behind the Mini when training but not too bulky for later when you are riding.

Webbing reins are adjustable and can be lengthened to the full 8' for training, and shortened to a more comfortable length for driving.

## **Leashlettes :**

Unless otherwise requested, as set of leashlettes will consist of one long section ( 16" – 26") and one shorter section ( 12" - 18").

The longer section should be used to connect the hasp ring of the extra dog to the DOH ring on the Mini's swan neck. Adjust the longer section so it is taut when the 2<sup>nd</sup> dogs head is either even with or slightly behind the lead dogs head.

Use the shorter leashlette to tether the two dogs together at the breast rings of their harness to keep them moving in the same direction. Adjust the length so they are close (3") but not touching. The closer they are to each other, the more likely they will try to maintain the same direction, gait and/or speed. Leashlettes come in very hand for many other uses such as tie-downs for jackets and other gear to the Mini's frame, or as short leashes, or harness "handles". They can be used to tie to dog to a tree or bike rack or for just about anything where a short tether could be useful.

## Connecting the dog(s) to the cart

The snaphook on the cart must **ALWAYS** be point **UP** when connected to the harness. Otherwise it **COULD open** during riding and become disconnected from the harness !



### Connecting one dog.

The hasp on the harness should be positioned as shown on the left.

Sit the dog with his back towards the sulky and bring the sulky up to him. Place your hand under the top pad and tilt the harness away from his back so you can connect the snaphook. This may seem difficult at first, but you will get the hang of it. (everyone does). Since the angle on the snaphook and the hasp are different which makes it more difficult to come undone during operation.

### Connecting two dogs to the 2-DogHitch.

The hasps on the harnesses should be positioned as shown on the left.



The button on the snaphook should be facing UP

Stand one dog alongside the hitch. While holding one side of the hitch, slide the harness down on the side of the dog until you can get the snaphook attached to the hasp. Slide the harness back up to the top of the dog's back. Repeat for the 2<sup>nd</sup> dog.

# Mini Harness Laundering Instructions

Your TZLITES Mini harness is completely machine washable.

## Main Harness:

- 1) Remove the cap nuts and washers that hold the HASP on the top of the harness with an 11mm socket, wrench, or an adjustable wrench.
- 2) Pull the webbing part of the harness up off the bolts.
- 3) Open the flat end of the large main harness pad where either the Velcro or zipper is, reach inside and pull out the plastic shim. The plastic shim is the triangular, curved plastic piece that has the bolts set into it.
- 4) Close the end of the main harness pad.
- 5) Pull off the small bottom pad - it's attached with Velcro
- 6) Open the Velcro tabs on the chest pad and remove it from the webbing.
- 7) The pads all have the "loop" part of the Velcro so they can just go in the washing machine as is.
- 8) The webbing part of the harness has the "hook" part of the Velcro, so to prevent it from damaging other items in the wash, including the pads, procure a few strips of 2" "loop" Velcro and place them over the Velcro on the webbing. It is then ready for the washing machine also.
- 9) Wash the harness and pads in a normal or gentle cycle, with warm/cold wash and rinse.
- 10) The pads can be tossed the dryer with a Permanent Press cycle.
- 11) The Webbing part of the harness should be hung up to air dry, as the hardware makes way too much noise in the dryer. ☺ It will dry quickly, usually overnight. The webbing may shrink just a tiny bit after washing, but will stretch out again to where it was adjusted, when used.

## Bellyband:

The bellyband can be thrown into the washing machine as is, with the tube pad still on the harness. To dry, remove the tube pad and put it in the dryer, and hang the webbing part to air dry.

## Reins, collars, splitters, traces, etc:

Wash as above and hang to air dry.