



by Jochen Schleese, CMS, CSFT, CSE, ©2019 Saddlefit4Life™ All Rights Reserved

Approximately a year ago I wrote an article for *California Riding Magazine* that dealt specifically with the considerations of saddle fit for jumper riders; this then is pretty much a continuation of where that article left off to discuss with you some of the options that you might consider to ensure optimum performance and well-being of your horse in the ring.

The Hunter/Jumper sport is made up of two disciplines: Hunter and Jumper, also known as Show Jumping. Each year more than 1,000 US Equestrian-rated and countless other local Hunter/Jumper competitions take place across the country. Each show offers competition for riders of varying skill levels, and each offers Hunter, Jumper and Equitation classes. While Hunter and Jumper classes judge the horse, Equitation classes judge the rider. Horse jumping is huge part of the equestrian industry and probably the most popular of the English disciplines. The majority of English sponsorship dollars are spent here, and the purses can be huge. One would think then, that the comfort and continued well-being of the horses involved would be of tantamount importance.

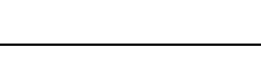
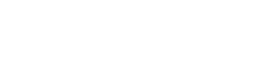
The art and science of saddle fit has become part of the consciousness of the importance of truly caring for your horse; of really working together with every equine professional who is part of the “circle of influence” around horse and rider. Traditionally however, it has been dressage riders and endurance riders who have been the most concerned with having a properly fitting saddle, because these are the disciplines where it seems to really matter how comfortable the horse (and rider) are – because otherwise performance can be visibly impacted.

June 2019 - Saddle Fit and Jumping Saddles

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Tuesday, 28 May 2019 21:20



Front view of the saddle and saddle pad. The saddle is shown in profile, and the saddle pad is shown underneath it. The girth is shown to the right.



Two jumping saddles, one brown and one black, shown from a side view.