

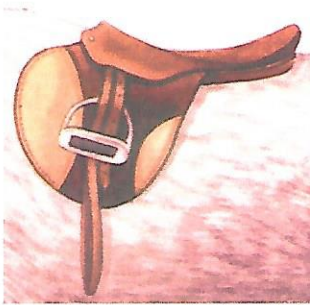
5. POORLY FITTING SADDLES



Sometimes an ill fitting saddle is obvious:

Fig 1. Backward leaning

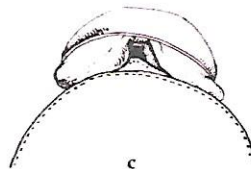
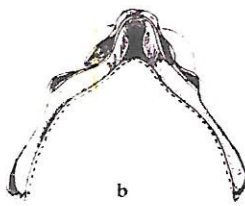
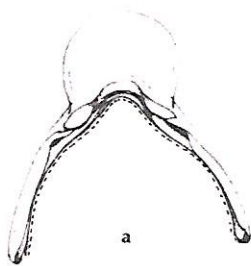
Fig 2. Forward leaning



Sitting too low on the horse. Could be remedied by re-stuffing but the tree may still be too wide for this horse.



Tree too narrow and pinching the withers which will cause pressure and restrict the free movement of the shoulders.



a. Too wide, pressing on withers and spine. Also crooked.

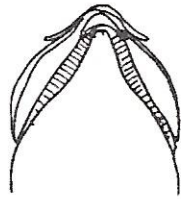
b. Too narrow, pinching the withers and spine

c. Sloping down on one side (in need of stuffing)

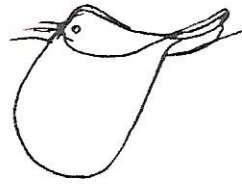
6. TEMPORARY FIXING



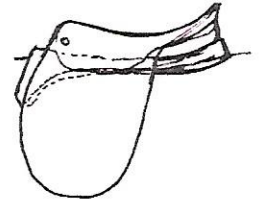
Saddle too wide



Padding put on sides of spine, leaving channel over spine



Saddle low in cantle due to flat rear panels



Back pad levels saddle

7. PROBLEMS ARISING FROM POORLY FITTING SADDLES

Behavioural Problems

- Bucking
- Rearing
- Pigrooting
- Shying
- Avoidance / resistance
- Difficult to groom
- Girthy, bites, cow kicks when saddled
- Won't stand still when being saddled
- Tail swishing
- Cold backed
- Dropping in the back when being mounted

Performance Problems

- Refusing at jumps
- Jumping flat
- Jumping on forehand
- Shying
- Twisting over jumps
- Difficulty with turning and pirouettes
- Pressure on back causes horse to hollow and resist
- Unusual liveliness or excitability
- Tendency to rush
- Tail swishing
- Poor flexion either left or right
- Inability to round the back and come onto the bit
- Loss of relaxation in horse's stride

Visual Problems

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galls, Wounds and Heat Bumps • Worn and Broken Hairs • White Hairs • Dry Spots • Muscle Atrophy (Wastage) | <p>Develop from heavy pressure – can be over just a short period of time</p> <p>From abrasion, worse with combination of pressure and abrasion.</p> <p>From damage to hair follicles.</p> <p>Due to excess pressure negatively affecting the nerve supply to the sweat glands.</p> <p>Due to long term spinal nerve restriction and from reduced use of back muscle.</p> |
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