

FULLY ADJUSTABLE WESTERN SADDLE

Finally a western saddle has been developed that has the ability to be properly fit to any shaped back and for any discipline ! This is not a new concept as adjustable saddles have been available in the english disciplines for over 25 yrs. It is amazing how riders believe that they can take one saddle and ride it on several different horses. This is a serious misconception , it would be the same as taking a room full of people and expecting them all to wear the same shoes !

Why do we want to make sure our saddles fit ??? To the rider it equates to more speed, better turns, softer stops - over all better performance. To the horse a properly fitted saddle means no pain, and the the weight of the rider is distributed equally over their back. From the horse perspective it would be like having to run a 100 meters with a pebble in our shoe. We could do it but not near as well as we would do it with out the pebble and why would we do it with so much discomfort ?

Some of the comments that are made from riders are “they just need to work through it “ or “ it’s just an ill mannered or ill trained horse”.

Danny Kroetch of DK Saddlery in Calgary Alberta was tired of seeing horses in pain. He set about designing a saddle that had the ability to fit different shaped horses or horses shapes as they change - three things can change the shape of a horse -feed, age, and work.

Danny is a master saddle fitter and has fit over 70,000 saddles so far in his life. Over 90 percent of horses that experience sore backs and sore hocks the culprit turns out to be an ill fitted saddle.

This new western saddle a tree with six inches of adjustability in the bars. The riders can do adjustments themselves , and they can be done in minutes . This saddle can go from a semi quarter horse bar to more than a draft cross bar.

Another great feature about this saddle is that it has a fully adjustable air system that allows for the back muscle to have less resistance and more comfort, which as stated above greats greater performance !

Finally the research is out on how the fit of a saddle cause problems. There are many University’s that have done study’s with published results. In 2009 the University of New Mexico did research on western saddle fit. They tested 180 western saddles with and with out saddle pads, finding not one of these saddles fit, the thicker the pad the worse the fit. The design of the western saddle has not evolved in the past 200 yrs. until now.

The deepest part of the seat needs to be parallel to the ground at all times, when the saddle doesn't fit properly, it can create white spots on the withers and sore spots on the back and restrict the proper movement of the horse.

Kroetch has seen exceptional results with horses in his saddle, "I have barrel racers who have increased their running time by up to a 1/2 a second, and ropers who have been able to rope with out a breast collar or back cinch, and the saddle never moved.

"I have put my saddles on horses that wouldn't spin to the right, and now they will. Horses that wouldn't back up, and now they will. Horses that have real trouble picking up a lead and now they do. My goal is to take the pain away from horses, not to make them endure more " he said.

DK offers every model of western saddle, from pleasure, reining, cutting, working cow horses, barrel, to traditional roping saddles as well as the ever popular buckaroo saddle. The saddles are fully custom, the rider is measured for correct size and makes the decisions on all cosmetic choices.

Kroetch travels all over the world giving clinics and presentations on proper saddle fitting as well as helping educate veterinarians. He has a reputation for being able to fit the most difficult horses, and his speciality lies in his ability to help horses that are experiencing pain from their saddles. It is very frustrating for Mr. Kroetch that as most people believe there saddles fit and are causing no pain. This is a huge misconception that riders get away with because horses are so stoic, they work through the pain. This is not right but until the population is educated it will unfortunately continue. Human athletes have proper and correct fitting gear so they can perform to there optimum but people do not give the horse the same opportunity !

If you would like more information or to contact Mr. Kroetch's please go to his website www.dksaddlery.com ..