

Blankets & Liners ~ Proper fitting tips

Watch the Withers!

The withers are especially sensitive and great care should be taken to ensure that the blanket sits just in front of them instead of exerting downward force on the bony wither area. I like to insert my hand beneath the blanket and run it gently all the way from the blanket's chest buckles to the horse's withers, keeping an eye out for any areas of excessive pressure; If it's pinching my hand, then there's no way that blanket is going to be comfortable for the horse.



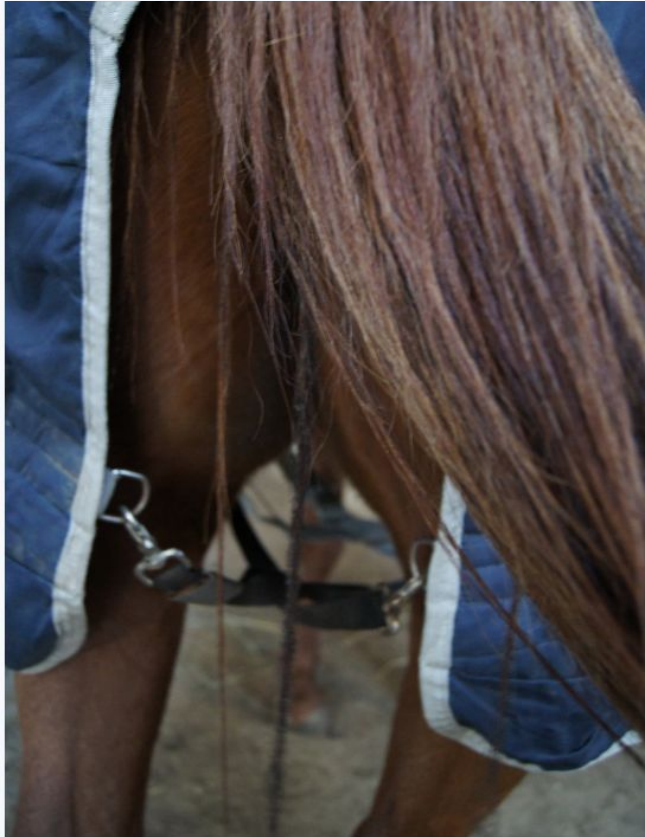
Properly adjusted blanket resting in front of the withers.



Improperly Fitted blanket positioned too far back on the withers. This is likely to create an area of high pressure which may lead to soreness.

LEG STRAP DILEMMAS

There seem to be a million different ways to fasten those daunting, crisscross straps that go in between our horse's hind legs. Here's the version I've found to be best at keeping the blanket safely in place:



Correctly fastened leg straps as viewed from behind the horse.



Method to securely fasten leg straps. This is how the final result should look underneath your horse. Simply loop one strap through the other when fastening.



***Handy hint:** If your straps tend to loosen by themselves with use, try putting duct tape around the adjustment buckles to prevent sliding. This also protects your horse's legs from that cold (and sometimes irritating) metal.*

Last but not least, make sure both the surcingle and leg straps are neither too tight nor too loose. Drooping straps are dangerous as they may trip the horse or fail to keep the blanket in a secure position. On the other hand, overly tight straps increase the likelihood of rubbing and discomfort.



As a general rule, adjust blanket straps so you can fit about a hands width in between the strap and your horse.

Remember: knowledge, planning and common sense are the key components to successfully blanketing (or not blanketing) your horse throughout the winter to come.

All information taken from:

<https://horsenetwork.com/2017/11/no-nonsense-guide-to-blanketing-horse/>

Other Helpful Links:

<https://thehorse.com/136654/researchers-study-owners-blanketing-clipping-knowledge/>

<https://www.equus.co.uk/blogs/community/temperature-guide-to-rugging-a-horse>