

## What Does My Rider REALLY Need?

Many people are unsure of what to get a new rider, especially when you walk into a horse store and see all the cool things to buy, and then the price tags. When starting out, a rider should consider first buying:

- ☐ Helmet
- ☐ Riding Boots
- ☐ Schooling/Riding Breeches

I recommend a helmet first because it's a nice piece of equipment to have to protect your head. At ONRA, we have helmets to borrow that we clean and check for defects regularly, but it's best to have your own. We recommend that you buy a new helmet at Dover Saddlery, Bit of Britain, and now Maryland Saddlery Consignment. **DO NOT BUY A HELMET OFF EBAY.** A helmet can save your life, mine has.

Riding boots help with getting your feet into the correct position. They just make your life easier. The breeches are more comfortable to ride in, and give you a little extra "grip."

After buying the helmet and boots, I recommend buying a brush box with the following tools:

- ☐ Hard (Body) Brush
- ☐ Soft (Dandy) Brush
- ☐ Hoof Pick
- ☐ Mane/Tail (Hair) Brush
- ☐ Curry Comb
- ☐ Shedding Blade
- ☐ Lead Rope

Many riders find brushes they prefer using, and this way, can guarantee they always have access to them. As for the lead rope, many riders enjoy using their own personal lead rope, as lead ropes come in a variety of colours nowadays.

As the rider continues with their education, some other things they may wish to add to their horse supplies are:

- ☐ Half chaps
- ☐ Riding crop
- ☐ Saddle Pad

Half chaps go over paddock boots and help with leg stability. If a rider rides a horse that tends to be pokey, or just needs a crop for an aid, many prefer to have their own so they can find one when they need it. As for the saddle pad, many people enjoy using their own colourful pad, sometimes with their name on it!

When the time comes, many riders like to use their own saddle and bridle. For saddle and bridle fitting, we ask that you check with an ONRA trainer to make sure you purchase a saddle that will fit the horse(s) you are riding. Saddles are like shoes, not all shoes fit all feet; not all saddles fit all backs.