

A Smooth Stride gives riding comfort



Special to Farm & Ranch

Smooth Stride riding pants combine the comfort of English riding breeches with the style of Western jeans. The newly introduced pants are designed by a woman specifically for women.

Woman designs riding pants for women

By **DESIRAI SCHILD**
for Farm & Ranch

BOISE — Marianne Morrison did more than complain about uncomfortable riding pants.

She designed her own.

"I asked myself why women were still riding in the same style jeans that men wore 100 years ago," Morrison said. "Women represent 80 percent of the new horse enthusiasts, and most have the same complaints. The waist is too tight, the seams are in really inconvenient places and your knees are rubbed raw after a long ride."

She asked a seamstress friend to sew some riding pants that combined the comfort of English fabric with the style of Western jeans.

"We improved the design and tried several fabrics before coming up with the final product," Morrison said. "I'd had it done just for me, but the women I was riding with started asking if they could get some too. That's when I decided to market them."

She just introduced Smooth Stride to the riding public.

The pants are made of a high-tech performance fabric that is 90 percent cotton and 10 percent lycra knit. This makes the pants washable, abrasion resistant and highly breathable. Suede patches were added for durability.

"We'd tried leather patches, but they didn't hold up after a few washings," Morrison said. "With the suede, you throw

Smooth Stride

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them in the washer, hang to dry and they really last."

The cut and herringbone fabric offers four-way stretch that molds to the rider in the saddle and springs back to shape when walking or standing.

The pants have a yoke front and elastic waist. Morrison said this allows free movement without cutting into the rider's middle. Best of all, there are no inside seams and the back, crotch and front are fully lined with soft cotton knit.

The half-seat pants have washable suede on the legs for saddle grip and to prevent wear. The full-seat offers extra security with suede on the seat as well. Both half- and full-seat pants have flared legs to accommodate work or Western boots.

The pants come in black or brown. Sizes range from small to extra-large. Half-seat costs \$79.95 and full seat is \$89.95.

Morrison will debut her product at local horse events. She also sells them now on her Web site.

"I hope people will give them a try," Morrison said. "It makes all the difference when you're riding in comfort."