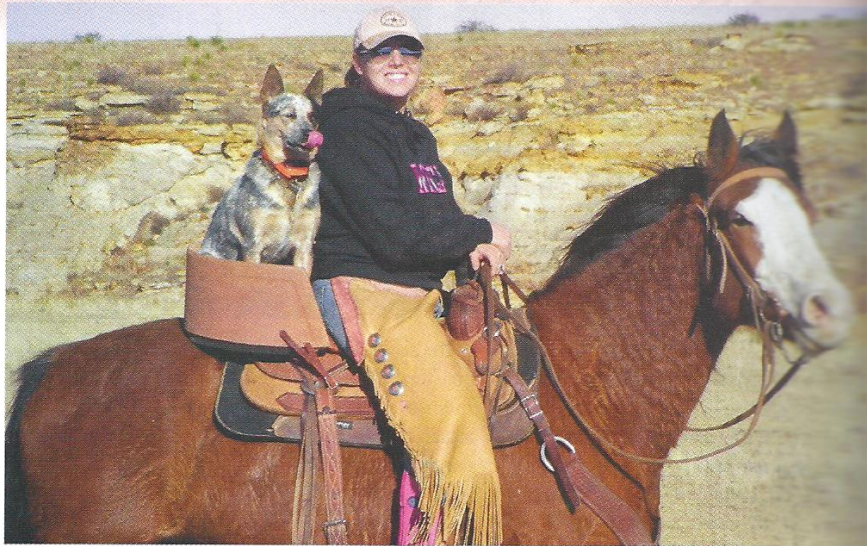


TRAIL GEAR

Dog Saddle

Give your small four-legged companions who can't keep up — or who need a rest — a chance to join you on the trail: The Saddle Pup Dog Saddle hooks securely to your saddle's D-rings with adjustable straps. A built-in saddle pad ensures your horse's comfort, while a sheepskin seat cradles your canine companion. Rough-out leather with tooled accents gives a finished look. **Cost:** \$495. **Contact:** Rafter DS Ranch, (817) 341-2244; www.saddlepup.com.



TRAIL TEST

Boot-Cut Breeches

Description: Smooth Stride designed its new Extended Knee Patch Jods particularly for female trail riders age 40 and up who prefer a more traditional pant style. The jods feature a natural-waistline rise; a wide, no-roll waistband; and a thick fabric made from 95 percent cotton and 5 percent Spandex. They have front pockets, belt loops, Swade synthetic-suede patches, and no inside leg seams. Available in black, in even waist sizes 28 to 40 inches, and a choice of 32- or 36-inch inseams.

The tester: As a 40-plus equestrian with a few extra curves and not a single pair of low-rise pants in her closet, Colorado-based journalist Sushil Dulai Wenzel fits the target audience.

Test results: I usually ride in English breeches, but I love the look and saddle-to-town versatility of a boot-cut pant. I've hesitated to buy a pair, though, since most are made from clingy fabrics that don't suit my tastes (or my figure).

I was pleasantly surprised with the jods. Following a suggestion on the manufacturer's online sizing chart, I selected waist and inseam sizes an inch or so smaller than my measurements. Yet,

despite the heavier fabric and a little tugging over my hips, the pants fit perfectly — and comfortably.

The figure-flattering cut and the bit of stretch made the pants form-fitting and as comfortable as a pair of yoga pants, without clinging to or emphasizing my every extra curve. The pants also followed my movements without binding or overexposing me, whether I was bending over to clean my horse's hooves, riding, or driving my car. And the no-roll waistband lived up to its name.

My one complaint is that the pant legs did sometimes creep up my leg when riding. This happened mostly when I was posting to a forward trot and to a lesser extent when cantering. However, you can solve this by simply tucking your pant legs into your boot tops, using elastic keepers with alligator clips, or donning half-chaps.

Before buying these pants, carefully read the sizing chart and measuring information, and call if you have questions. And pay attention to the care instructions — while the pants are machine-washable, there are some special drying notes.



Overall, I found these to be extremely comfortable, high-quality riding pants that were also inconspicuous to wear around town. I know they'll be a staple in my riding wardrobe.

Cost: \$99-\$104.

Contact: Smooth Stride, (208) 863-2155; www.smoothstride.com.

Fuel-S

ablemate's aim economy with and light weight pack. Choose models in str features include rechargeable battery for the emergency make. **Cost:** from \$8,000. **Contact:** Shadow Trailer (52) 529-2154 www.shadowtrailer.com.

Trail-

Designed to fit stay on through boot open and-loop close



Porta

light your camp help keep warm. The portable lantern uses butane cartridges that emit odor-free resin of a natural chrysanth 15-by-15-foot. Each cartridge of use; each hours of pro lights with rings are po es. **Cost:** \$ Schawbel C 53-3837; w