



## Horse and Money Management

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So you're halfway through the season. Your horse is sore from all the travel and jumping. Your coach and vet say you need to give your horse some help. Maybe a chiropractic adjustment, massage, Adequan shot, or a plethora of other treatments.

Your response is, "I can't afford it!" However, you just jumped 8 classes in the last two weeks, all of which were mediocre and you ended up disappointed.

Suggestion: Do one or two less classes, and get your horse's body looked after. Financially it's that simple. One vet said to me once, "Don't you take your car for an oil change?" It's the same thing, we can't drive them this hard and not do the maintenance.

That goes for well-fitting saddles and bits also. We spend thousands of dollars on purchasing these horses and we need to work into the budget the equipment that fits and helps them jump and perform better. We cannot say we spent everything on the purchase price and he should just deal with it. We ourselves don't go to the horse show in terribly fitting, poorly cared-for boots, come home with sore feet, and strap on to wear the same ones the next day.

Give your friend a chance at being comfortable to do his job.

These horses aren't always screaming at us that they are uncomfortable, and so it is our job as riders to be listening and in tune. What does he say when I use this saddle or that pad? Does he step out well? Does he resist my leg? If I give an Adequan shot do I feel a difference? Does he feel better the next day or in 3 days? Does he get resentful by the end of the week? How many classes gets him to be his best without over-working or having a wild beast on my hands?

All of these things are going to help you come show time. Ask your professionals to help: your coach, vet and body worker are great resources for these questions.