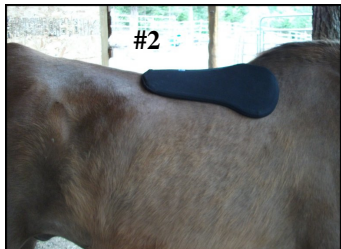


## Cushings Disease, Skito Pad, and Kuda Leather Flex Trail Saddle

Oh Yeah, Tommy is a special case in more ways than one.

1. First and foremost he is the Apple of my grand daughters eye, and the rest of the grand kids love him too.
2. Second he has a bad case of Cushings disease. The kind that leaves him wasting away instead of fat.
3. His top line is so atrophied that we have to go to great measures to fit a saddle to him.

This is what the story is about today.



The first picture shows Tommy's top line. He has little to none. You can barely feel his ribs when you run your hand over them, so he does have some fat, but his muscle is just not there. The problem is how to keep a saddle from riding on his spine and give him support. When he is saddled, he is one of the trail horses and loves to go. You cannot tell he is ill as he is a going machine without stumbling or falling behind. He has a lot of heart.

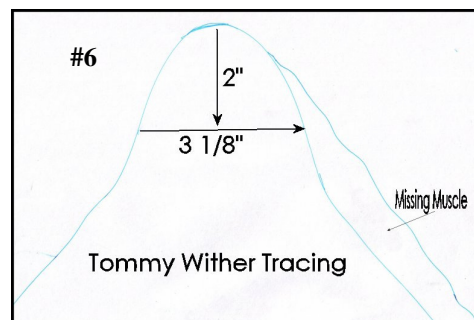


Before we started medicating him with Pergolide he acted like he was on the verge of founder all the time, had muscle tremors, and was depressed. When he was ridden, his legs would swell the next day. All of these symptoms have lessened if not disappeared. Some people have communicated that it is cruel to ride Tommy in his condition, but he does need exercise. And our grandchildren all weigh under 80 pounds. He is far from being abused.



The Second picture shows a Shoulder Bridge by Skito Enterprises. If Tommy were only slightly atrophied, this may be enough, but in his condition we need much more. I'm showing this as a choice for some of you out there who may need just a little help. In Tommy's case we use a shoulder bridge plus a Skito Pad with 1 1/2" of foams inside. Instead of the Shoulder Bridge we could use some Skito scalloped shoulder shims made just for his back.

Picture #3 shows the pad in position. This one has Dry Back which adds even a little more thickness and cushion. Dry back also extends the life of Skito Saddle Pads.



Pictures #4 & 5 show Tommy all saddled and ready to go. With the Skito Pads he actually has enough back to support the narrow Kuda Flex Trail Saddle. When he sweats he has a beautiful sweat pattern and a dry channel down his back bone. Because of the flexible leather / foam



bars in this saddle they pull down and form to his rib cage. There are no misshapen hard bars jabbing him in the rib bones. If you put this saddle on without the correct padding, it would ride on Tommy's back bone and it would surely bridge, dropping down in front. This would also cause the saddle to work back when being ridden because of the shoulders pushing it back with each stride. Even treeless saddles need to be padded properly, especially under these special circumstances.

Picture #6 shows the actual wither tracing of Tommy. I drew in on the right side what I believe to be missing muscle. So if you think you cannot ride your horse because of a razor back, this is not true. You just need the right padding, and the right saddle.

Picture #7 shows the reason Tommy is alive. He has a job to do and we want to keep him as comfortable as possible so he can keep up with our little Angel.