



— TACK SHOP —
EST. 1945

How to Take a Wither Tracing

Bringing in a wither tracing is a great way to help us help you find the right saddle for your horse, and it's an easier process than you might think.

In order to take a tracing, you'll need the following:

- A large piece of cardboard (we've found that poster board works best)
- A marker or pen
- A flexible curve (If you don't have one of your own, you may borrow one from us!)
- Scissors
- An assistant to ensure that your horse is standing squarely as he is being traced.

To take the tracing, follow these simple steps:

1. Take the flexible curve and bend it in half.
2. Find your horse's scapula (or shoulder blade), and lay the curve behind it, running the curve over the horse's wither so that it lays snugly against the horse's skin.
3. Carefully lift the curve so that it does not bend and place it on the cardboard. Make sure that you keep the sides consistent so that the right side of the curve was touching the horse's right side.
4. Without bending the curve out of shape, carefully trace the pencil along the inside of the curve (the part that was touching the horse).
5. Cut the tracing out along the line you traced, and cut off the bottom.
6. Label the date and the side (left or right).

Bring your tracing into Olson's and we can help you pick some saddles that might be worth trying! It's also very helpful to bring in a tracing of the horse's back at the 18th Thoracic Vertebra. This tracing helps us determine what kind of panel might be most appropriate for your horse.

To take this tracing follow these simple steps:

1. With your horse standing squarely, use your thumb to find his last rib, and run your thumb up the rib until it meets the spine. This is the 18th Thoracic Vertebra - the last weight-bearing surface of the horse's back.
2. Use the flexible curve to bend around his back in the same way you bent it around the wither, keeping it snugly against his skin.
3. Carefully lift the curve so that it does not bend and place it on the cardboard. Make sure that you keep the sides consistent so that the right side of the curve was touching the horse's right side.
4. Without bending the curve out of shape, carefully trace the pencil along the inside of the curve (the part that was touching the horse).
5. Cut the tracing out along the line you traced, and cut off the bottom.
6. Label the date and the side (left or right).