

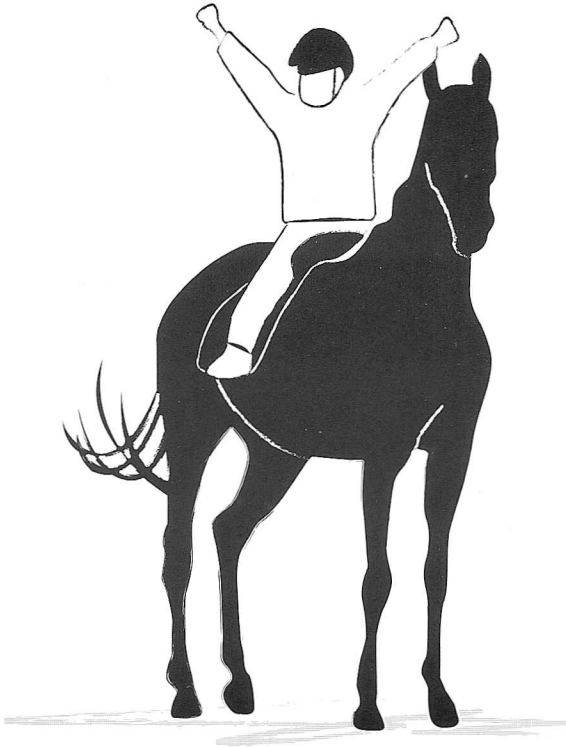
ARTICLE SEVEN

# THE EFFECTS OF SADDLE FIT AND WEIGHT ON THE NATURAL MOVEMENT OF THE HORSE

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## ABSTRACT

Understanding the horse's natural movement and the factors affecting natural movement is imperative for riding instructors, therapeutic riding instructors and equine specialists. To positively utilize the movement of the horse in the therapy and therapeutic venues, the instructor, therapist and equine specialist must understand the effects of weight carrying capacity, saddle fit, and adaptive equipment on the horse's normal movement. By incorporating this knowledge in our teaching and husbandry, we will be better stewards for our equine partners by keeping them physically sound and mentally fresh and providing our riders with appropriate and effective movement and learning opportunities.