



# Midwest Dressage Association Newsletter

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April 2024

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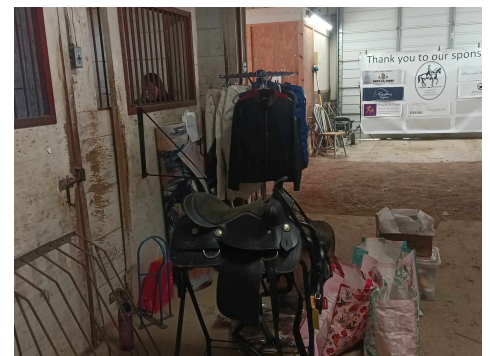
MDA Board Member Alexandra Pollack shares some ideas on items to check on and in your trailer as we head into show season



Hello members! Can you believe it's already April? We've had enough rain in the past few weeks that I have some high expectations for the amount of flowers that should be coming in May. Our paddocks have been mud soup. I'm looking forward to more sunshine and finally having the paddocks dry out. Shedding season is also in full swing. Does anyone else find random hairs in places that you never have

near your horse? I'm blessed with a big gray gelding and can't seem to get away from the hair.

Thank you to everyone that participated and attended the very first MDA Used Tack Sale on April 13. Hopefully you were able to buy or sell everything you hoped for. We would love to hear your feedback on what you liked, what you didn't like, and everything in between as we continue to try and provide our members with more opportunities for education and connection with fellow members. You can email Mykal Roth at [mykal@midwestdressage.org](mailto:mykal@midwestdressage.org) with any thoughts you might have.





Finally, MDA needs you! We have had some recent vacancies on the Board for this year. We are looking to fill two spots that are three-year terms. We're looking for motivated individuals that are ready to jump in with both feet to help continue to improve the MDA for our members and put on more activities for everyone to

enjoy. If you'd like to hear more about what's involved, the time commitment, etc., please reach out to a current Board member to learn more. I promise we don't bite!



Our goal is to provide you with content that is helpful, enjoyable, and educational. We are re-introducing the Classifieds section for anyone that wishes to list used tack or even horses for sale. We've also added some new sections to introduce some of our member trainers, judges, and current board members. I welcome your feedback, good, bad, or otherwise, as we continue to develop the newsletter across this year. If there is additional information or content you'd like to see, please let me know. If you are interested in contributing an article or would like to be featured in one of the sections, please reach out to me at [meghan@midwestdressage.org](mailto:meghan@midwestdressage.org).

Meghan Connolly  
Board Member

# Meet the Trainer-Janelle Deisig, Deisig Dressage

*This section is designed to introduce MDA Members to some of the fantastic member judges and trainers that we have throughout the State of Michigan. If you are a judge or trainer and interested in being featured, please reach out to [meghan@midwestdressage.org](mailto:meghan@midwestdressage.org).*



**Name:** Janelle Deisig

**Farm Name/Location:**  
Deisig Dressage LLC  
Frankenmuth, MI

**How long have you been riding?** Riding for 30 years.

**How long have you been a trainer:** Trainer for 16 years.

**What got you interested**

**in Dressage?** My mom's friend invited us to a riding school, primarily Dressage, and I was instantly hooked.

**If you could ride in a clinic with anyone, who would it be and why:** If I could ride in a clinic with anyone, it would be Carl Hester. I'm very impressed with his training style and how relaxed his horses are.

**What's one tip you think every dressage rider should have (in the saddle or on the ground):** One tip I would give to riders are reward the little things because it adds up to the big stuff.

**What's the best horse advice you have ever been given:** The best advice I've been giving is to keep the horses happy.

**Who are your mentors:** My mentors are Rosalind Kinstler and Brad Cutshall.

**Are you currently available for lessons and/or training:** I do training and lessons and can be contacted via FB, [janelledeisig@yahoo.com](mailto:janelledeisig@yahoo.com), or 989-598-6850.



## Meet the Members-Cindy Rushbrook

*This section is designed to introduce some of our wonderful members! If you are interested in being featured, please reach out to [meghan@midwestdressage.org](mailto:meghan@midwestdressage.org).*



### **How long have you been riding:**

I've been riding on and off since I was five years old. Probably, for the the last ten years or so I've been taking regular lessons with Laura VanRiper of Synergy Dressage.

### **Tell us about your horse(s):**

I have a mostly retired 19 year Quarter Horse mare named Mouse. I have had her for 11 years and was hoping to get my bronze medal with her. She developed some soundness issues and we only made it to first level. She still enjoys being

ridden and pampered. Two years ago I purchased a young Trakehner gelding named Roo. He's quite the character and we are having a lot of fun developing together.

**What are your horsey goals this year:**

My goals are to continue to improve my skills as a rider and be a good partner for my horses. I hope to expose Roo to more shows and clinics this year with the goal of qualifying for regionals in 2025.



**What do you like to do outside of riding:**

Outside of riding I love traveling with my family, taking photos, and spending time with my dogs.

## Meet the Board- Beth Schaub

**Position on the Board:** Historian

**How long have you been a member of MDA:** Since the 70's with a little break for college and graduate school.

**How long have you been riding:** 50+ years! Since age 9, with a break for college.

**Do you ride traditional or western dressage:** I started over fences. Ralph Trocher started coming to the barn I was at. The barn owner offered me a slot and I said yes. The ground was getting harder every year, and I was thinking, "If I get hurt, how do I pay my bills?" I was hooked!

**What got you interested in Dressage:** My very first group lessons (age 9-11) were at the Flint Riding Club, Chuck and Carole Grant were boarding there. While waiting for my ride home, I had a chance to watch Mr. Grant school his horses. WOW! My father had a few Saturdays when he was working and

couldn't immediately be there to pick me up after my lesson. He got permission for me to bring out sack lunches and hang out until he got there. I got to watch for 1.5 hours! For a horse crazy kid of 9, it sure was hard to sit in the observation area, watch and eat. I would forget to eat.



**Tell us about your horse(s):** My current horse is one of my "heart" horses. I have been very fortunate to have two in my riding career. Spinner is a foundation Quarter Horse who stands 2" too tall to be a pony. I purchased him when he was seven. He was a competitive FQH reining horse before I purchased him. He is now 26. He has taught me so much - how to sit still in

the saddle (wiggling on a reiner is like slapping the palm of your hand on a computer keyboard), to be aware of my surroundings (less than a month after I purchased him, a crow landed in the opposite end of the arena where we were working. We were working on 20 m circles. Before I knew it, he had done a spin and I was facing the other direction on the centerline standing rock still, staring at the crow. Okay this buggler is handy!), and how to have an unspoken but clear conversation, using your body, with your horse. I discovered that I had to be patient in the conversations, because the messages had to go from my brain - through my body - to his body - to his brain - back through his body. It is only a very few milliseconds, but it requires preparation and planning.

He is now 95% retired due to navicular in his front feet and arthritis in his hocks. We go for walks and school all of his buttons at the walk. He's still got them!

**What has been your most memorable moment as a member of MDA:** The 2 years Will Davis and I developed and wrote the "Participating Schooling Show" program as a way to earn money to help pay for the Awards. It was a major change of thought for the MDA. When we started the project, there were five, two-day schooling shows at Rattlewood. The riders had to send in the mail what they thought were their best test scores, front pages of their tests, and a required form before a strict deadline. Today, we have 44 schooling shows scheduled so far for 2024, and everything is computerized. With all of this growth the Awards person will never turn down volunteer help to enter and

sort data. If you don't mind typing on spreadsheets and have some time, feel free to speak up!

**What would you tell someone considering joining MDA:** If they want to know the latest schedule for regional dressage schooling shows, get news on clinics/lectures/ training opportunities held through MDA and neighboring farms, receive great awards, meet great people that are as horse crazy as you, JOIN MDA!

## What's In My Horse's First Aid Kit?

By: Meghan Connolly

My horses are boarded at my vet's stable. I'm spoiled. Because her clinic is attached to the barn, I feel like I have a vet on call 24/7, with all the supplies I could ever need when there's an issue. I am truly thankful every day for everything she does for my horses and how much I have learned from watching her work on horses and asking a million questions. Boarding there has been like a safety blanket for me as I have transitioned back into horse ownership after almost two decades off from riding and owning a horse. Because of that security, I messed up the first time I took my horse off property. I never considered that something could happen while we were away and was wholly unprepared when it did. After that, I vowed that I would not be without at least some minimum supplies in the event of an emergency. Lucky for you, April is American Red Cross Pet First Aid Awareness Month, so I thought I'd share what I keep in my first aid kit that I keep in my trailer!

Of course, every person and every horse's needs are different. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, just some ideas if you're trying to put together your own first aid kit. I found most of my supplies at Meijer, Amazon, and a local tack and/or farm store. I store everything in a Rubbermaid tub.



### The Obvious Stuff

- Vet Wrap
- Wet Wipes
- Alcohol Pads
- Gauze Pads
- Non-Stick Pads
- Disposable Gloves
- Scissors (I have trauma shears and regular scissors)
- Wonder Dust
- Alushield
- Swat
- Vaseline
- First Aid for Horses Book

### The Big Stuff

- Diapers
- Epsom Salt
- Cotton Roll
- Microfiber Towels
- Brown Cling Gauze
- Poultice (I admittedly don't keep this in my first aid kit, but instead in my tack box at the barn)
- Handy Light



### The Small Stuff

- Tweezers
- Utility Knife
- Pill Splitter (I have 2 for some reason)
- Pill Holder
- Head Lamp (don't forget to keep it charged!)
- Thrush Buster

### The Meds (These do not stay in my trailer between shows. Make sure you store in the correct climate.)

- Electrolytes
- Banamine (I got this prescribed from my vet with specific instructions on how/when to use it)

First aid kits are for more than just shows. Of course, it's always a good idea to keep supplies handy wherever you keep your horse. My vet recently suggested that I also keep a "mini" first aid kit in my car for the times when I'm not on the property and don't have my trailer. I currently have a horse at the trainer, so the timing of her suggestion was perfect. Part of my upcoming



weekend will be spent putting together a pared down version of everything I just listed.

First aid kits are also for more than just horses. While it's not a full first aid kit, I also keep an "Oh Crap" box of supplies for myself in my car. If we're ever at a show together and you've forgotten something, I may be your girl with the extras.

Here's what I keep inside:

- Sanitizing Spray (I try to spray down any feed pans, stall walls, etc. before I put my horse in the stall)
- Bleach Wipes
- Wet Wipes
- Band-Aids
- Sunscreen (yes, I have 3 in there- sun care is important! Take it from a redhead)
- Deodorant
- Chapstick
- Feminine Products
- Hair Nets
- Shout Wipes
- Safety Pins
- Sewing Kit
- Hairbrush/Comb



# Have you Checked Your Trailer Recently?

By: Alexandra Pollack

As we are heading into the 2024 show season, we literally can't put the cart before the horse! We have a few tips to get your horse trailer and supplies in tip top shape for the show season.

1. Take a walk around your rig. Are the tires deflating? Cracking or bubbling? Any areas of rust that need to be attended to? Do the windows need a dab of caulk to help with sealing? Taking a nice, slow walk around the outside of your rig can help ensure you notice small problems before they become big ones!
2. Have some type of roadside assistance. Not everyone has a truck or trailer to come save you when you're stranded. Your horses rely on you for their safety. Invest in SafeRider or AAA.
3. Is your license plate visible? Do you have reflective strips? Keeping trailers big or small visible is key to safe travels.
4. Drive with jacks, extra bolts, wrenches and tools on hand to assist in a pickle!
5. Most importantly, take a climb underneath your trailer. How do the boards look if they are exposed? Have any squishy or sinking spots? If so, it's time for a replacement.
6. Get behind the wheel and check all your lights today. How are the turn signals and brake lights working?
7. 2024 is the year you finally cover your hitch in the winter if kept outside. If you forgot to, no worries! Check that you can easily raise and lower your hitch onto your truck. Do your chains still attach easily and are in good working order? If not, time to get into a shop that can help!

## Education Grant Program

**Congratulations to Erin Miles on receiving an Education Grant for 2024!**

The 2024 deadline has passed for the grants. Don't forget to get your applications in to be considered for next year!

# Upcoming MDA Events

## June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> MDA Clinic

What: From a Judge's Perspective and Fix-a-Test Clinic

When: Saturday and Sunday June 22-23

Where: Rattlewood Farm – 1935 Ray Rd, Oxford 48371

Judge: Cheryl Connell-Marsh, R

Come join us for a 2-day clinic with Judge Cheryl Connell-Marsh, R. Have you ever wondered what a judge's perspective was on a ride, or if they see riders making the same mistakes over and over again? Come on Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup> to watch demo riders from Intro-4<sup>th</sup> Level, and listen to commentary from our judge. This is an open forum event, and we welcome the audience to ask every question you've ever wanted to know!

Day 2 will be a Fix-a-Test opportunity. Ride the test that's giving you trouble or test out a new level without the show cost. After the ride, Cheryl will give you feedback and tips to better your score. You will then be given the opportunity to redo the test. This is an excellent chance to see if you're ready to move up a level or ask for help on movements that you are struggling with.

### Cost:

Stalls are available for \$40 a night.

Day 1 Auditing is \$45 for adults and \$25 for Juniors (20 years old and younger); discounts given for auditing/riding both days.

Day 2 Fix-a-Test Clinic is \$65 per spot (9 - 45 minute spots available)

Stalls are available for \$40 a night, no stall stripping required.

**Demo Riders Wanted!** If interested, please provide level you wish to ride. Please note that all demo riders must have shown successfully (scores in the 60's) at the level they wish to ride, or have a trainer recommendation of level ability.

Please contact Mykal Roth for more information at:

[Mykal@midwestdressage.org](mailto:Mykal@midwestdressage.org), or text 810-441-0263

## Upcoming Clinics

Here is a list of some upcoming clinics being held in Michigan. Please note that none of these clinics are sponsored by MDA. Please contact the people listed for additional information. If you are hosting a clinic that you would like added to future newsletters, please email [meghan@midwestdressage.org](mailto:meghan@midwestdressage.org)

### **April 27-28 JJ Tate Clinic**

JJ Tate is coming to Rattlewood Farm in Oxford, Michigan

Rider spots filled in 12 hours.

Auditing available on a limited basis and requires pre-registration and pre-payment, RSVP to [nancyclair0924@gmail.com](mailto:nancyclair0924@gmail.com)

JJ Tate is a top International Grand Prix dressage rider and trainer. JJ Has been competing at the highest levels for over 25 years. She holds herself to the highest standards to train with integrity and without shortcuts, adhering to the classical dressage principles that are aligned with how horses think, move, and learn.

She has successfully trained dozens of horses up the levels and has competed over 30 horses at the FEI levels with many notable accomplishments throughout her career.

JJ is a gifted teacher and a highly sought-after clinician. She happily works with any horse and rider at any level, sharing her program based on humane, compassionate, And systematic development of the horse through classical dressage.

Please email only for rider and auditor information, this one is filling fast.

## 2024 MDA Recognized Schooling Shows as of March 1, 2024

Please Note: Additional shows may be added. Be sure to double check closing dates, as some shows are filling before closing. Please check Facebook and the MDA website for the most up to date information.

Show Dates	Show Name	Location	Closing Date
April 19	MJMHA	Mason	CLOSED
April 28	Woodbine Farm	Chelsea	April 19
May 5	Aberdeen Farm	South Lyon	April 25
May 11 & 12	Thistle Run	Mason	May 1
May 11 & 12	Wyn Farm	Williamston	April 30
May 12	Woodbine Farm	Chelsea	May 3
May 18	Aberdeen Farm	South Lyon	May 8
May 26	Great Lakes Dressage Club	Wauseon, OH	May 17
June 1 & 2	Thistle Run	Mason	May 15
June 2	LP Equestrian Center	Casco	May 19
June 2	Aberdeen Farm	South Lyon	May 23
June 2	Woodbine Farm	Chelsea	May 24
June 2	East Creek Stables at Hunter's Run	Metamora	May 21
June 8 & 9	Rattlewood Farm	Oxford	May 26
June 8 & 9	Wyn Farm	Williamston	May 28
July 7	Woodbine Farm	Chelsea	June 28
July 13 & 14	Rattlewood Farm	Oxford	June 30
July 13 & 14	Wyn Farm	Williamston	July 2
July 20	Aberdeen Farm	South Lyon	July 10
July 21	LP Equestrian Center	Casco	July 7
July 26	MJMHA	East Lansing	July 15
July 28	East Creek Stables at Hunter's Run	Metamora	July 20

August 3 & 4	Rattlewood Farm	Oxford	July 21
August 4	Aberdeen Farm	South Lyon	July 25
August 10 & 11	Wyn Farm	Williamston	July 30
August 11	Aberdeen Farm	South Lyon	August 1
August 11	LP Equestrian Center	Casco	July 28
August 11	Woodbine Farm	Chelsea	August 2
August 17	Aberdeen Farm	South Lyon	August 7
August 24 & 25	Thistle Run	Mason	July 17
August 25	East Creek Stables at Hunter's Run	Metamora	August 18
September 7 & 8	Rattlewood Farm	Oxford	August 25
September 7 & 8	Thistle Run	Mason	August 14
September 7 & 8	Wyn Farm	Williamston	August 27
September 15	Aberdeen Farm	South Lyon	September 5
September 15	East Creek Stables at Hunter's Run	Metamora	September 7
September 29	Aberdeen Farm	South Lyon	September 19
October 12 & 13	Rattlewood Farm	Oxford	September 29

## Catherine B. Jacobs Schooling Show Awards

All MDA shows are eligible for the the Catherine B. Jacobs Schooling Show Award! Region 2 has generously put together this award to allow local competitors' scores to be recognized on a regional level without leaving their home area! Put yourself in the running to take home some USDF ribbons! Complete guidelines and registration form is available via the link below: <https://www.usdfregion2.org/catherine-b-jacob-schooling-show-awards-program.html>

Note that you must be signed up for the program BEFORE you ride your tests in order for the scores to count.

# Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for a few good volunteers. The MDA has exciting activities planned for 2024 and we can use your help. Come and meet new people by volunteering and make some new friends. In addition, you earn volunteer hours that go towards recognition at our annual banquet.

If you would like to be involved contact Leslie Richardson at [leslie@midwestdressage.org](mailto:leslie@midwestdressage.org) or [brock\\_48446@yahoo.com](mailto:brock_48446@yahoo.com).

We would love to meet you and join us.

# Non-MDA Volunteer Opportunities

Some of our schooling shows are in need of volunteers to help keep their shows running smoothly! These volunteer opportunities are NOT MDA sponsored and do NOT count towards the year end awards for the MDA. Please contact the parties listed below if you are interested in volunteering.

## **Thistle Run**

Volunteers needed at Thistle Run Shows in Mason at the Ingham Co Fairgrounds! We give out awards & prizes to our fabulous volunteers at the end of the season! 1st through 6th place. Email [ThistleRunEq@gmail.com](mailto:ThistleRunEq@gmail.com) if you want to pet ponies, get ribbons for helping, and enjoy your summer with friends.

Dates: May 11&12, June 1&2, August 24&25, September 7&8.

Alexandra C. Pollack  
Thistle Run Equestrian Event Services



## Rattlewood Farms

Rattlewood Farms is looking for a volunteer to be an announcer! Dates would be:

June 8-9  
July 13-14  
Aug 3-4  
Sept 7-8

Hours approximately 8am to 4pm-ish

Please contact Jessica Filiatrault directly at 512-585-4048

## Wyn Farm

Wyn Farm Dressage Shows will be held on May 11-12, June 8-9, July 13-14, August 10-11, and September 7-8 this year. We are excited to be offering a volunteer appreciation program that recognizes volunteers for their contributions as we couldn't do this without them!

The roles we are looking for help with are: scribes, ring stewards, score runners, and parking assistants.

Please contact Teresa Hyndman at [wynfarm@gmail.com](mailto:wynfarm@gmail.com), or at 517-230-3445 to find out how you can get involved. Thank you for supporting our local horse community!



**VOLUNTEER WITH WYN FARM**

*Meghan Cole*  
photography

**VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE PROGRAM**  
Support our horse shows and join in on the fun! WYN VIP program will offer prizes and awards to volunteers who dedicate time to our shows and events! For more information and to find out how you can get involved, contact Teresa at 517-230-3445



# MDA Board of Directors and Committees

As a Board, we look forward to serving you. We would love to hear from you! If you have questions or concerns about a specific event or area, please contact the following people:

- Marketing: Alexandra Pollack ([alexandra@midwestdressage.org](mailto:alexandra@midwestdressage.org)) or Mykal Roth ([mykal@midwestdressage.org](mailto:mykal@midwestdressage.org))
- Year End Awards/Schooling Shows: Holly Zecchin ([holly@midwestdressage.org](mailto:holly@midwestdressage.org)) or Alexandra Pollack ([alexandra@midwestdressage.org](mailto:alexandra@midwestdressage.org))
- Redbook: Beth Schaub ([beth@midwestdressage.org](mailto:beth@midwestdressage.org))
- Membership: Katie Bratschi ([katie@midwestdressage.org](mailto:katie@midwestdressage.org)) or Cheryl Figures ([cfigs\\_mda@yahoo.com](mailto:cfigs_mda@yahoo.com))
- Education: Mykal Roth ([mykal@midwestdressage.org](mailto:mykal@midwestdressage.org))
- Professional Advisory: Alexandra Pollack ([alexandra@midwestdressage.org](mailto:alexandra@midwestdressage.org))
- Year End Banquet: Meghan Connolly ([meghan@midwestdressage.org](mailto:meghan@midwestdressage.org))
- Historical: Beth Schaub ([beth@midwestdressage.org](mailto:beth@midwestdressage.org))
- Volunteers: Leslie Richardson ([brock\\_48446@yahoo.com](mailto:brock_48446@yahoo.com))
- Communications: Mykal Roth (social media) ([mykal@midwestdressage.org](mailto:mykal@midwestdressage.org)) or Meghan Connolly (newsletter) ([meghan@midwestdressage.org](mailto:meghan@midwestdressage.org))

President: Holly Zecchin ([holly@midwestdressage.org](mailto:holly@midwestdressage.org))

Vice President: Mykal Roth ([mykal@midwestdressage.org](mailto:mykal@midwestdressage.org))

Secretary: Katie Bratschi ([katie@midwestdressage.org](mailto:katie@midwestdressage.org))

Treasurer: Cheryl Figures ([cfigs\\_mda@yahoo.com](mailto:cfigs_mda@yahoo.com))

# Thank You, Sponsors!

The MDA would like to thank the following sponsors for their ongoing support for 2024:

Russ and Kelly Gilbert



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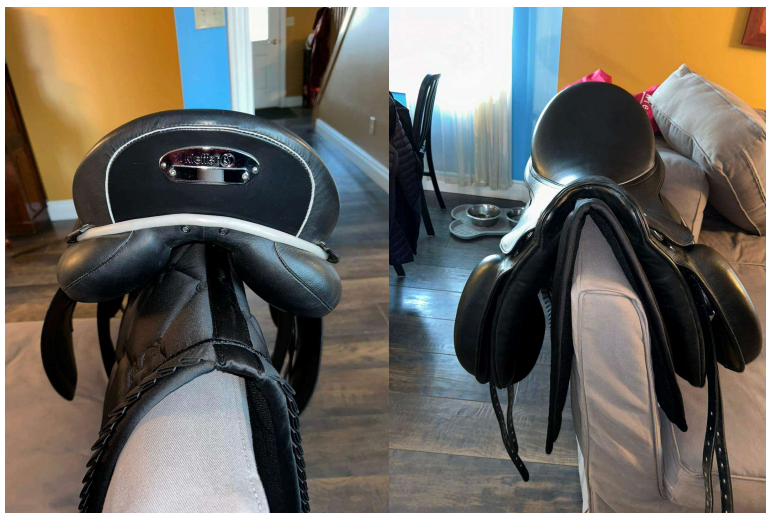
## Classifieds

If you are interested in listing anything for sale in the classifieds, please contact Meghan Connolly at [meghan@midwestdressage.org](mailto:meghan@midwestdressage.org).

### 17.5 MW Kieffer Orphee Ultra Exclusive

Medium-high knee rolls on the saddle flap  
Panel cut back in the shoulder area  
Long girth straps  
Movable V-suspension  
Soft flaps  
Double soft leather  
In demo condition!  
\$2500 shipped

Contact Katie Bratschi at [chris650@msu.edu](mailto:chris650@msu.edu)



## Equestrian Stockholm Saddle Pads and Halter

Prices as marked in photos. Pads are full size dressage and the halter is full size. I can meet in Mason/Lansing area, at any of the schooling shows I'm attending, or ship at buyer's expense. Contact Meghan at (989) 798-1291 or [meghan.connolly83@gmail.com](mailto:meghan.connolly83@gmail.com)





### Kerrits Affinity Aero Show Coat

New with Tags, Black, Size 2X. The jacket has a waffle-like pattern to it that is really airy when you wear it. I can meet in Mason/Lansing area, at any of the schooling shows I'm attending, or ship at buyer's expense. Contact Meghan at (989) 798-1291 or [meghan.connolly83@gmail.com](mailto:meghan.connolly83@gmail.com).

Retails at \$199, asking \$175.

