



A Jumping Evaluation

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I think it's wonderful to be able to see a horse jumping in slow motion. This horse shows you in detail all the different aspects of the jumping effort.

This mare comes to the jump with good intent off the right lead. The second image reveals that she is not jumping off both hind legs equally. Her right leg is slightly ahead of her left. This is minor, but will usually result in a stronger push off the right leg than the left and thus give her a left drift. Ideally the takeoff should be with both hind legs pushing equally and hind legs side by side.

She is obviously very careful and quite scopy. She is jumping up well with her withers. Although she is showing good technique with her front end, she is behind with the left forearm when compared with the right forearm. She is using her neck well and looks to be quite relaxed through her back.

She is showing great technique with her hind legs over the jump. She has opened her hip angle and is looking quite athletic.

Over the pole on the ground, you can see just how much pressure we put on the hind pasterns. It's amazing how much flexion they have to have in their pasterns to be able to stand up to jumping for ten years or more. That is why we look for a good angle on the pastern when standing and not straight up pasterns.

The second jump in this gymnastic shows us great front end technique and scope and carefulness. Her facial expression shows enthusiasm for her job. I believe this horse is very flexible and a young horse with a very interesting future ahead of her.

This is a good example of being able to evaluate a horse without jumping big jumps. This can be done with a three year or four year old.

