

# Tried & Tested

With a huge range of products on the market to choose from, manufacturers seem to have anticipated you & your animals every desire. Every month our panel will test a range of products for you, your equine & your canine.

This month we tested a range of Equine & Canine products from a lightweight outdoor rug to a Houndsac. All our products are tested thoroughly on our own animals.

## The Company of Animals Pyramid

*Tried by Helen Joynes of Just Paws*

**The Blurb:** Occupies and stimulates. Made from tough, durable material. Releases food and treats. One size suits all! Available from [www.companyofanimals.co.uk](http://www.companyofanimals.co.uk) £10.95

**Verdict:** The Pyramid is a large pink plastic toy big enough to fit a whole meal into if you so wish. It is a tough durable toy that has stood up to being bashed about on a concrete yard by 5 dogs.

The beauty of the pyramid is that it makes it far more difficult to obtain the food within it, as it only has one whole at the top of the toy for the food to be dispensed from. The pyramid is also weight balanced so it always rights itself to a standing position when being played with, making your dog work extra hard for his rewards. You can use this as a feed toy, where a whole meal can be placed inside – great for dogs that bolt their food and for dogs who need something to stimulate them for longer periods of time when left alone. Or just for fun with treats. The opening to put in the food is not large to stop the food coming out quickly, so it is not suitable for use with large kibbles. This toy has even stood up to the hardest mouths known to rip through most plastic toys, as it is made of a tough plastic that is too slippery for the dogs to get a grip on and too big for most dogs to fit in their mouths.

**EXCELLENT** 🐾🐾🐾🐾



## Robinsons Requisite Waffle Cooler

*Tried by Izzy*

**The Blurb:** Lightweight, quick drying and breathable featuring high wicking properties, cross surcingles, wither protection and twin chest straps. Machine washable. Charcoal/Jet Sizes: 5'6", 5'9", 6'0", 6'3", 6'6" or 6'9" Available from [www.robinsons-uk.com](http://www.robinsons-uk.com) Tel: 0870 420 3000 product code: 52040 Price £19.00

**Verdict:** This lovely rug fitted very well & at a very reasonable price. It looks really smart. It is difficult with it being boiling hot one day & chilly the next but this managed to work well as a sweat rug & a lightweight rug to keep my mare warm on cooler days. It also made a change to find a tail strap that's actually long enough!!

**VERY GOOD** 🍷🍷🍷🍷



## Hound Sac

*Tried by Carrie Buchanan*

**The Blurb:** A Great Practical Little Bag to Carry Your Dog's Pool! The Hound Sac currently comes in Khaki Green, Beige and Charcoal. Available from [www.houndsac.co.uk](http://www.houndsac.co.uk) Tel: 0782 756 8981 £49.95

**Verdict:** I am so impressed by this bag. I hate carrying about little bags full of dog poo – very embarrassing!! This amazing bag stops all that. Plus it is a very high quality little back pack. If you love walking your dog but hate swinging your poo in bags then this is for you. It makes a nice present for the dog lover as well; with a handy foldaway dog bowl, wipes, bags & air freshener all included in the price!! I tried it out on Exmoor. I kept my tick twister in the neat pocket on the front. My water bottle underneath & my waterproof on the top. As a responsible dog owner I collect my poo even on the moors. My friend loved the straps that double up as collars & leads. Seriously impressed! Every dog owner should have one!

**EXCELLENT** 🐾🐾🐾🐾



## Shires Summer Highlander Combo

*Tried by Izzy*

**The Blurb:** The Summer Highlander Combo is a new addition to Shires' range of summer turnout rugs and combines all the features of the standard Summer Highlander such as 600 denier waterproof, breathable, rip stop outer, double breast straps, shoulder gussets and back leg straps with a full neck to provide extra protection during the wet weather. Colour: Navy

Sizes: 60"-84" RRP: £56.99 for more information please see [www.shiresequestrian.com](http://www.shiresequestrian.com), call 01568 613600, email [sales@shiresequestrian.com](mailto:sales@shiresequestrian.com) or see the latest catalogue.

**Verdict:** What a fabulous rug. With the ever-changing summer weather it is difficult to find a rug that is breathable, waterproof & warm enough to keep out the chill. This rug did all three. I find some rugs leak around the shoulders in heavy rain, this one didn't. My mare thoroughly tested the rip stop outer & I am happy to report it held up to her vigorous testing!! This will see her into the autumn & a milder winter.

**EXCELLENT** 🍷🍷🍷🍷



### Shires Rope Lunging Rein

Tried by Carrie & Azul

**The Blurb:** Rope Lunging Rein measures 25' (7.5m) and has a spring hook and swivel at one end with a loop at the other. Colour: Navy Blue RRP: £13.99 for more information please see [www.shiresequestrian.com](http://www.shiresequestrian.com), call 01568 613600, email [sales@shiresequestrian.com](mailto:sales@shiresequestrian.com) or see the latest catalogue.

**Verdict:** I have looked for a long time for a decent rope lunging line, at last I have found one. I do a lot of work with my horses on the lunge & have tried many lines! Unlike the flat cavesson style lunging lines, this is nice & soft making it easy to handle. When you have young & inexperienced horses, it is important to have the correct equipment that not only suits you but you can use quickly & easily. This does just that.

**VERY GOOD** ○○○○



### Robinsons Fly Mask Without Ears

Tried by Izzy

**The Blurb:** Lycra with mesh face, touch tape and zip under chin fastening. Available with or without ears. Navy with or without ears. Available from [www.robinsons-uk.com](http://www.robinsons-uk.com) Tel: 0870 420 3000 product code: 59107 from £9.00

**Verdict:** I absolutely loved this mask. It looks not dissimilar to a veil. Majority of fly masks are bulky & can make my horse sweat around the ears attracting more flies! Because of the material & design it is cool & breathable. Lovely & soft & fits like a glove, so no chance of losing it in the field. My mare is very nervous & did not mind me putting this on & was more than happy in it. Fantastic product at a great price.

**EXCELLENT** ○○○○○

### Robinsons Performance General Bridle

Tried by Flo

**The Blurb:** European leather bridle with soft padding on the poll, noseband and brow band for ultimate horse comfort. With a raised and stitched brow band and noseband, removable flash strap and secure stainless steel buckle/billet hook fastenings.

Complete with a pair of plain leather reins. Available from [www.robinsons-uk.com](http://www.robinsons-uk.com) Tel: 0870 420 3000 Colour: Black, Brown or Light Brown Sizes: Pony, Cob or Full Price & order code: 33154 £67.54

**The Verdict:** I tried this item on my friend's new mare that I am re-schooling, so it was important to have a comfortable & practical bridle. I was really impressed with the quality & how soft & supple the leather was. It fitted really well. Due to the leather being so soft it was nice & easy to fit & adjust. If you are looking for a new bridle then I highly recommend this excellent quality one. I have even ordered one for my Gelding.

**EXCELLENT** ○○○○○





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