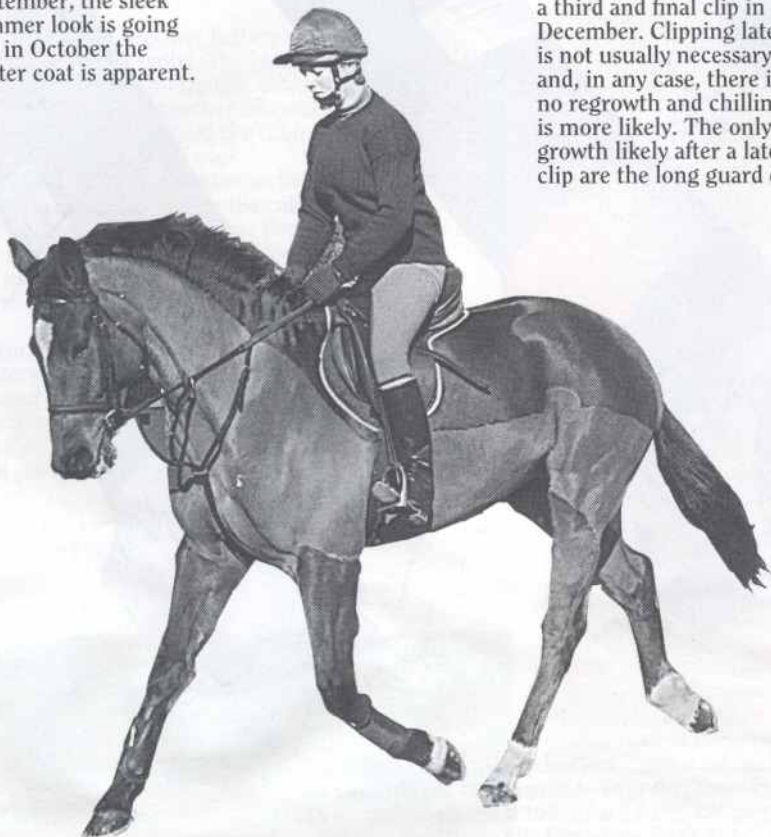


WHEN TO CLIP

The winter coat starts to form (in the UK) in the second half of August. In September, the sleek summer look is going and in October the winter coat is apparent.



It continues to grow until the year's end. Generally, the first clip is done in early October, second in November and a third and final clip in December. Clipping later is not usually necessary and, in any case, there is no regrowth and chilling is more likely. The only growth likely after a late clip are the long guard or

cat hairs, which do not offer much warmth but are simply an indicator of a cold horse.

As the winter progresses, you may find you do less riding due to the long nights, short days and poor weather. The second clip may therefore be less extensive than the first one.

WHEN NOT TO CLIP

Never clip a horse which does not need to be clipped. Generally, horses that are not in work don't need clipping. The same goes for young horses too.

The appalling practice of clipping foals for the show ring is an unnecessary abuse which appears to be on the increase. Whilst there

may conceivably be the odd occasion in an exceptionally hot summer when an exceptionally furry foal may be getting overheated and need a little help, there can be no justification whatever in clipping foals right out.

Foals should be kept out as much as possible, on the very best grass available. Their natural coat is their very best protection against cool nights, flies, hot sun and the inevitable knocks which would otherwise injure their fine and tender skin.

Some horses are genuinely terrified of being clipped or so dangerous that they could injure themselves or their handlers. Such horses are better not clipped on safety grounds.

The whole range of Lister clippers, blades and accessories is available from leading equestrian distributors Westgate of Newchurch. Ask your saddler to order from them.