

# Getting To Devon

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horses in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and New Jersey.

The show season runs year-round.

Horses that work hard on the weekend get a rest during the week.

"Most horses don't necessarily do a whole lot of work throughout the week. They need down time," he said. These horses generally take the first two days of the week off work and turned out to pasture. Later in the week they may do light workouts on the lunge line or under the saddle.

"Horses that show are very fit — once they're fit like that they don't have to work during the week," he said. "Devon horses are the athletes of the horse world."

### The Riders' Responsibility

Riders in the hunter competitions are allowed to get into the ring in the early morning however are not allowed to jump the course, he said.

A diagram is posted at the in gate. However, when the horses enter the ring, "they are walking in with no practice on that course," he said. "Everybody's on the same level playing field."

Besides the course of the jumps, the diagram includes the distance between the jumps. Since hunters are judged on their even stride and style between and over jumps, riders have to know how the horse will cover that distance, he

said, to best show off the horse's jumping ability.

"Depending on how big your horse's stride is would determine how you need to ride down the line," said Jocelyn.

Riders may "need to coax their horses if they think their

phere can be intimidating, "the fair is fun, once we're past the pressure of the horse show," said Jocelyn.

Horses and riders have to be able to get past the distractions "and go do their thing, no matter what — to shut out anything and go do their job,"

to get the maximum out of all different types."

"You can't overreact," so no one notices that the horse is nervous, she said.

Jocelyn works to disguise the faults of horses by sitting quietly, using subtle motions, and not making any quick or

**“To win at Devon, takes a great ride, a great horse, and everything coming together at the right moment. It's hard to win because every horse has earned the right to be there — only the good ones make it. The courses are hard and the lines are long. They do everything they can to test you.”**

**Jocelyn Martin**

mounts will back off, look at the spectators, and look at the jumps," she said.

"As a rider, you need to be able to feel that, and keep coaxing them and telling them, 'you can do this.'"

Relying on feel, and an eye for a distance, is imperative as riders judge whether to move up a bit or be quiet and wait it out, "and all that relies on what you call a good eye," said Jocelyn.

Although the festive atmos-

he said.

### Catch Riding

Most of Jocelyn's riding instruction came from her father, John, who grew up on a hunter/jumper horse farm in nearby Lititz and also exhibited horses. Her mother, Leslie, also helped her learn how to ride.

Jocelyn began "catch riding" — riding horses for other owners — at an early age. By the time she was 14 she found herself riding for many different owners, which served to make her comfortable on a wide variety of mounts.

"First of all, I love to ride, and every time I get on a horse, whether it's a green horse or a horse that's been around for a while and just needs a tune-up, I want to ride to the best of my ability," she said.

"At the end of the day, we (Jocelyn and her father) discuss how each horse was, how I rode each horse, and what we can do to better the horse and better the ride," she said.

Sitting atop a horse gives a unique perspective, according to Jocelyn, who gets different readings from each mount, whether it is tense, fresh, overwhelmed, or intimidated.

"You are dealing with a second personality with the horse," said John Martin. "There are large differences from horse to horse, and a professional's job is to be able

exaggerated movements to relax the horse.

"You can't be too rough with your hands or pulling on the reins. You can't be sitting up there, flopping around, and letting your seat bump around or your legs flopping around.

"The rider needs to be able to trust what she's sitting on, and the horse needs to trust the rider," she said.

"Once the horse feels that the rider is going to do a good job and not make mistakes," said Martin, it will settle in to do a better job on the course.


Lodestone Farm boards 25-30 horses, most of them hunters and jumpers in training. Jocelyn does the majority of the riding, working eight or more horses a day. She not only starts young horses but also works with horses at each stage of development.

The Martins work with children and adults of all ability levels, taking riders to A rated and local shows.

The 34-acre farm also includes a heated barn with 34 stalls, a tack room, office, and lounge, plus an indoor arena with a viewing lounge. The operation also has an outdoor ring, numerous fields for turnout, riding trails, and a small tack store which the Martins renovated into a home for Jocelyn.

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