

Simon was 10 years old when I got him, he had previously done the preliminary jumpers with a professional and the 3'6 jumpers with 2 adult riders. Simon always had what I will call a unique way of going, his muscles were rock hard, and no matter what you did with him he always had a hard time using the muscles in his back. My trainers even compared his canter to an eggbeater. His jumping style was incredibly difficult to ride because you could never get a good canter out of him, he would leave the ground normally, and halfway through his jump, where most horses round through their backs and finish their jump behind, Simon would throw his head straight up in the air, and throw his front legs to the ground, almost like a dive. While he was a very brave and pretty careful horse, he required so much maintenance to keep him remotely sound that it was almost not worth the effort it took. Simon became somewhat of a stopper mainly because of his physical build, he was always back sore, and it was very hard to always see him in pain. It was also very hard for me to constantly go to horse shows and have rails because his muscles were so tight that he was forced to dive right over the fences, or come down on the back rail of an oxer because he couldn't stretch across them. It seemed that there should have been something other than medication that would make him feel more comfortable and become more competitive.

My trainer had been having her grand prix horses treated with Dr. Schils for a few months before she came to me with the idea to have Simon treated. Simon's initial treatment was hard because he was so tense that he would jump with any sudden movement or noise, he would also not ever let his guard down and allow Dr. Schils to manipulate his muscles and make him more comfortable. Over time Simon became increasingly more comfortable with the treatments, and there was a definite change under saddle. While I had been showing Simon in a German martingale in the attempt to keep him together and set up for a course, his whole body loosened up over time and his muscles and his mouth became so much softer. With the months of Dr. Schils' treatments Simon became a totally different horse, I was able to show him in a loose ring snaffle and be incredibly competitive in the child adult jumper divisions. In fact the final show that I brought Simon to I won both classes, I attribute the eventual success that I achieved with Simon completely to the work that Dr. Schils put into him.

Jackie Annatone  
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Simon After Functional Electrical Stimulation Treatments



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