



A men's hacking jacket.



The huntsman, whippers-in and field masters generally wear scarlet coats, sometimes known as "pinques". Under the formal coat the rider often wears a canary vest.



A hacking jacket features slanted pockets and a three-button front.

# FOX HUNTING STYLE

by Patricia Bosley

Each discipline of equestrian activity has its own specific requirements for riders' attire, and they vary considerably. For the purposes of this article, I am going to explain the correct terms, style and fit of Fox Hunting attire. While specific hunt clubs may issue individual modifications, there are generally acceptable standards.

## Cub Hunting Attire

During cub hunting season the dress is informal – tweed hacking jackets worn with ratcatchers for women and shirts with neckties for gentlemen. A ratcatcher is a lady's riding shirt with a standup collar with either one or two buttons. Usually the shirt is accompanied by a choker that is worn over the collar. They may be either plain colors or a variety of patterns. In more temperate climates ratcatchers and polo shirts without riding jackets may be allowed.

A cubbing or hacking jacket has slanted pockets with a three-button front. Traditionally, women's jackets had side vents and gentlemen had a center vent on their jacket, but today's environment provides an opportunity for the wearer – man or woman – to choose what looks best for his or her body shape. If one has a pronounced backside, side vents are more aesthetically pleasing.

When choosing a hacking jacket, select a color and pattern that is complementary to your build and coloring. Shirts can be any color and pattern that looks well with the jacket. A patterned or colored stock tie is sometimes worn during cubbing season. Tattersall vests may be worn, as well. The stock tie and vest are good ways of making the rider warmer as the days become cooler, especially during the regular hunting season.

Riders wearing tweed jackets should wear dark brown, cordovan or British tan field boots, but black dress and field boots have become increasingly acceptable. The rider may wear three-buckle boots

instead of the field boot. Both dress and field boots are tall boots, which reach to just below the knee; the field boot has laces at the ankle and the dress style has none. With either style, boots should be tall enough to hit just at the back of the knee when the rider's leg is bent.

Breeches are to be rust or tan; there are several shades of tan that are acceptable. Fashion colors and patterns on the breeches are not allowed. Young riders, usually riding ponies, wear jodhpurs and dark brown paddock boots with brown garters.

## Formal Hunt Attire

During a formal hunt, a member of the "field," (the general membership or guest, not the staff of the hunt) should wear a jacket that is dark in color. The jacket can be either a blue or black hacking jacket or a proper hunt frock. A frock coat has a tailored top, a waist seam and a slightly fuller skirt. The waist seam of a hunt frock sits at the top of the wearer's hip bone.