

HITS Installs EuroFelt Footing

“...to work around. In Saugerties, we basically had a blank page. There were some challenges—the principal being that the grounds are bisected by a stream—but that turned out to make these grounds unique, because we could connect everything with bridges. There were a lot of obstacles, but it was worth it.”

“The HITS-on-the-Hudson show grounds is a world-class facility designed to meet the highest standards of equestrian competition, while also offering many unique features. Most noteworthy are the five Hunter and three Jumper arenas, both surrounded by a native bluestone wall inside a grass berm with twin bridges arching over the entrances. While the Grand Prix arena is always the focal point at other horse shows, HITS-on-the-Hudson gives the Hunter division equal exposure. In addition to the arenas, there are eight all-weather performance rings and four practice rings. Tom has spent millions of dollars on a **Eurofelt surface for the arenas**, which combined with sand ensures that the horse’s footing is secure in both rain and sun. A natural three-board fence will encircle the show grounds, finishing at the grand entrance.

New in 2005, HITS has constructed a compound for high-performance horses. A permanent barn housing 90 stalls, each 12’ x 12’, sits separate from the rest of the show grounds, and forms the core of the facility. Adjacent to the barn is a 140’ x 240’ schooling ring surrounded by a natural stone wall. **All-weather footing is featured in the schooling area, as well as in the 60’ x 120’ lunging area.** The area is partially bounded by four-board fencing, with a natural stream that curves around the perimeter completing the enclosure. A gated entrance for the monitoring of credentials provides absolute security, and access to the Grand Prix arena via a special gate means that high-performance horses never have to leave the compound.

HITS has also constructed eight new permanent barns to the showgrounds, adding over 500 stalls for a grand total of nearly 1,200 permanent stalls. Additional tent stabling is also available, with about 1,500 or more portable stalls. “The large number of permanent barns and stalls make our facility pretty unique,” said Tom. The HITS-on-the-Hudson showgrounds can comfortably accommodate more than 2,500 horses and 7,500 horsemen each week. For spectators, A VIP pavilion overlooks both the Hunter and Jumper arenas, and a restaurant and dining courtyard offers patio seating as well as an enclosed dining area. Shopping will be available in two buildings sectioned off into vendor boutiques offering equine-themed merchandise from tack to 14K gold jewelry. To get away from it all, riders can take their horses on a 2.5-mile trail ride around the perimeter of the property.