

HOOF BOOTS

by Glenn Wilson ©

Numerous horse owners are realising the many benefits of maintaining their horse's feet barehoof. The evidence is abundant that maintaining horse's hooves barefoot is far safer and healthier than shoeing.

Just as with our feet, if a horse is de-shod and left barehoof or taken from a soft environment and asked to perform on harder, rockier ground, then hoof/feet tenderness will often be an issue.

Modern hoof boots are the answer to this challenge.

Today's hoof boots are the result of ongoing research and development by several companies across the world. Spurred on by the overwhelming demand by the barehoof movement, modern hoof boots and sole padding systems will fit virtually any horse with ease and comfort. Hoof boots are usually only needed on front hooves as these bear the majority of the horse and riders weight. Front hooves also experience more hoof tenderness than hind hooves.

Current design hoof boots are constructed from hard wearing and long lasting user replaceable components. This means should a part of a hoof boot wear out or break, then it can be ordered and easily replaced using common hand tools.

As horses transition from shod to barehoof, correct fitting hoof boots are used as needed. For example on a trail ride, if at any stage a barehoof horse is showing signs of hoof tenderness, then two hoof boots can be fitted in a matter of a minute or two.

However the majority of barehoof horses live and perform without the need of any extra protection of hoof boots. These horse's hooves will be characterised by tough, thick soles, a hard, calloused frog and sound, compact straight walls. The position of internal parts of the hoof will be optimum for barehoof performance as well.

However if your horse lives in a soft paddock then his hooves may not be as tough as one who lives in harder, rockier terrain, such as horses that live in the wild. Rather than nailing a steel plate on a living structure, consider the latest designs and models of hoof boots as a convenient, healthy and cost effective way of protecting and/or transitioning your horse's hooves.

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Further Resources

www.renegadehoofboots.com
www.easycareinc.com
www.equethy.com
www.hoofrehab.com