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Hoof Boots

Hoof boots can be of help when transitioning hooves from shod to barefoot. They also have a place where the horse does not live on the type of terrain where he gets ridden. If he lives in a grassy pasture, but the trails are full of hard rocks, you may need a boot for these rides. If the boot facilitates more movement, it makes sense to boot a horse. But a boot should not be a crutch for a horse to be ridden before he is actually sound.

Boots can also be used to make a horse more comfortable when they are suffering from abscesses, laminitis/founder or , but never should be substitutes for correct trim applications.

Some have accessories which help prevent rubbing. Also there are pads available that can be used on sensitive horses or to help stimulate weakened areas of the hoof, such as the frog. By cutting the pad into the shape of the frog and either taping over the frog or attaching it to the boot, extra stimulus is provided to help develop the frog and digital cushion.

The following pages give you a chance to review different boots that are now available.

Each manufacturer has slightly different size, so you may find some boot shapes more suitable than others for a horse's individual hoof shape. This is an important fact when deciding which boot to recommend or to purchase as the better the fit, the less problems you will encounter.

It is important to match the width and the length of the hoof to the boot size. The front hooves, being more round in shape, may require a different size than the hind hooves.



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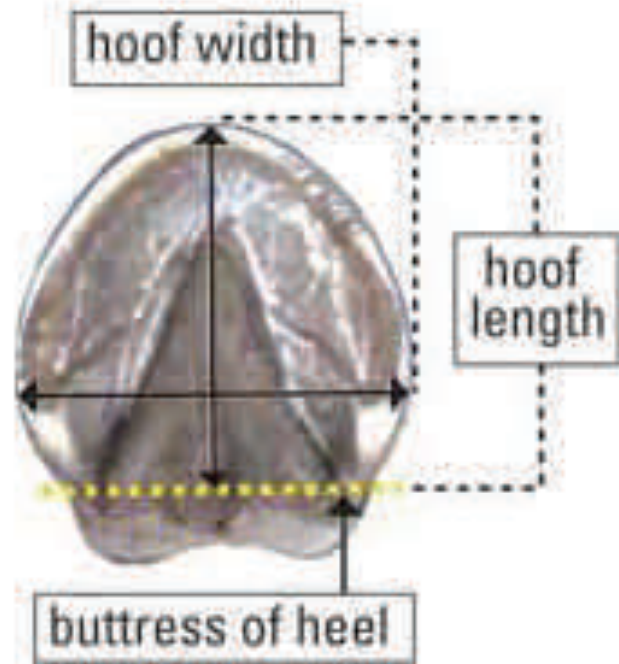
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How to get the correct size boot for your horse:

- 1.) Measure the width of the hoof across the bottom at its widest point.
- 2.) Measure the length of the hoof from the toe to the buttress line of the heel. The buttress line is the farthest weight bearing point of the heel.
- 3.) Compare the measurement with the proper size chart for the boot. If you are taking your measurements in inches, use the imperial size chart. If you are taking your measurements in millimeters, use the metric size chart.
- 4.) Ideally, the width and length measurements will fit into the same boot size. If the width and length measurements indicate different boot sizes, select the larger boot size.



Note: To access the links following, press “CTRL” and “Click” simultaneously and the link should open for you in a new window.

Probably the largest and most active boot distributor in the US is the **Easyboot** company. They have on their website a lot of information: How to measure for boots, how to fit them, which boot to choose, and videos. You can call them with question and even become one of their sales team:

<http://www.easycareinc.com/>

Another **excellent source** for hoof boots is this website:

[Jenny Edwards Hoof Boot Website](#)



Here are some boots from other companies:

Davis Soaking Boot

http://www.davismanufacturing.com/files/products/horse_boot.php



Davis Barrier Boot

http://www.davismanufacturing.com/files/products/barrier_boot.php



Hoof Wings

<http://www.HorseSneaker.com>



Sabre Sneakers Rehab Boot

<http://www.sabresneakers.com/>



Stride Equus Marquis Boot

<http://www.marquisboot.com/>



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The Swiss Horse Boot

<http://www.swisshorseboot.de/com/html4/boot.html>



Castle Plastics Hoof Boots

<http://www.castleplastics.com/hooftboots.htm>



Simple Boots

<http://www.cavallo-inc.com/horseboots.html>



Horse Mocs

<http://www.horsemoc.com/index2.htm>





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Soft Ride

<http://www.soft-ride.com/>



The Equine Slipper

<http://bluegrass-equine.com/products/the-equine-slipper>



Once you have been through all these websites, you have spent a whole lot of time investigating hoof boots. Should you recommend boots for a client's horse? It all depends on the use of the horse, the state of his health, the ground he is living on, the client's preference and your own preference.

Just make sure the boot is never used to a) ride a horse that is not yet ready to be ridden or b) to hide a bad trim.