

CAN YOU SHOE IN PLASTIC?

For those of you accustomed to having your horses shod in steel, thank you for trusting me and transitioning to composite shoes. In the last year I have seen healthier feet—no more crushed heels, more robust frogs, and sturdier hoof walls. I have used composite shoes for horses with pathologies such as navicular, low grade laminitis, and side bone; for eventing horses; horses competing in working equitation; and steady Eddy trail horses. This year I have added Epona shoes and Ground Control shoes to the list of options available for your horses.



PHCP PRACTITIONER

As you might recall, last year I began the certification process to become a Progressive Hoof Care Practitioner (PHCP) certified practitioner. It took most of 2021 to complete the required in person mentorships and hoof care case studies but this month I was able to finish my final presentation and am waiting approval for certification. I will be teaching my first PHCP course, *Glue-on Hoof Protection*, in Long Island in May.



MINI MILES TO GO

Welcome Getty to the Stoppler-Watson Clan! Getty (her registered name is Forget Me Not) is an American Miniature Horse who joined our family this Spring. I didn't see myself owning minis during my horsemanship journey but after bringing her home and taking her for walks, I realized how much fun it is spending time with tiny horses! This summer we trained for a goal of joining GMHA for their Fall Foliage Ride. I decided to get Getty fit and signed us up for two days of trail riding . . . except we would be hiking! We had a blast. We hiked 12 miles on day one and 13 miles on day two. Getty inspired me to venture out on hikes with Honey and Wiley as well. I have to admit though, minis make it easier to explore the trails less traveled. Getty and I buswacked and navigated stream beds and steep ravines, places difficult for big horses to explore. Getty reawakened my sense of adventure and reminded me that even as we get older, and maybe even more importantly as we age, it's ok to play, be silly, and lighten up. And perhaps our horses enjoy us a bit more this way as well.

THANK you

I am grateful for each of you and your horses. Thank you for trusting my ability and expertise, for supporting my business and continued learning, and for your friendships.