

CAROLE HERDER'S HANDY HOOF HINTS #3

6 Things You Need to Consider When Constructing Your Horse's Barefoot Program

1. Like Your Trimmer

In a natural wild herd environment, horses will easily travel 10 miles a day foraging for food on rough aggressive terrain and naturally trimming their hoofs to suit the environment. Your barefoot trimmer must trim your horse to compensate for the lack of natural environment and movement. Your trimmer must balance the effects of your horse's domesticity. She should be someone you feel comfortable with who provides a good explanation to any of your questions and who allows you the space and leniency to learn; to understand and be a part of what she is doing to your horse's hoofs. If not, move on.

2. Watch for Hoof Mechanism

Good function of the hoof means the heels expand when bearing weight to allow the structure of the horse to descend and the hoof capsule to flex and absorb that shock. Expansion and contraction can be achieved in a combination of ways and by providing frequent trims tailored to the individual barefoot horse on his specific terrain. Good hoof function requires that blood circulate freely, providing nutrients to all the live tissue of the hoof. This is accomplished through unrestrained movement, flexion and pumping action of a natural bare hoof.

3. Help Your Horse Move

Your horse wants to move. It is essential not only for the physiology of his hoofs and overall physical well-being, but for his psychological state. He feels better when he's fit. Studies have shown that stalled horses with restricted movement have more health and behavior problems than those allowed freedom. Anyone who doubts this is advised to walk into the bathroom and close the door - stand there all day doing nothing, moving minimally, talking to no one. One may develop some odd twitches, anxiety or crankiness along with a good understanding of how a confined horse feels. And humans only have 2 legs!

4. The Social Club

Horses will move around more when kept in a herd, where social interaction provides motivation to move. Their hoofs function when they are moving – expansion and contraction, blood circulation. They create hierarchies of order which provide comfort within the herd. They bond and groom and play. They are not meant to be coddled, bedded and pampered like us. Let them be the horses they are. They will have differences of will and opinion, but they will work it out. That’s their job. Sure, there may be some bumps and bruises in the process, but bare hoofs cause far less damage or injury than metal shoes!

5. Need a Drink

When horses need hydration, they are happy to stand in a creek or watering hole for a period. Well hydrated hoofs, have elasticity which promotes the all-important hoof mechanism. Water also allows for an easier trimming procedure, especially in dry weather — well hydrated hoofs are so much easier to work with. Our domestic horses are given water in buckets, and this compromises their feet. Consider your horse’s environment and add water or a mud pool in an area your horse must move through. Water is preferred over commercial products as many moisturizers available on the market contain alcohol, solvents and other agents that draw moisture out. As with many authentic solutions, there are often no quick fix shortcuts. You may have to stand with your horse while soaking. Or you can simply use your Cavallo Hoof Boots. Cover the built-in drainage holes with duct tape and fill the boots with water. Your horse can freely rumble around hydrating his own feet.



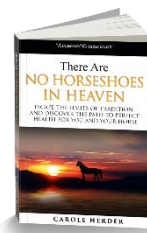
6. Provide Hoof Protection

Our domestic mounts no longer move with the herd many miles a day foraging for food on hard arid ground and hydrating hoofs in watering holes. Their movement is limited to an average of 2 or 3 rides per week. Their hoofs are conditioned to their living environment: grassy pastures and bedded stalls. They are conditioned to tolerate the terrain of their habitat. But then for 5% or even a generous 10% of the time, we ask them to pack us up a gravelly trail or hard asphalt road. Their hoofs are not accustomed to this terrain and the load is increased with our weight and the weight of our saddles, which is about 200 extra pounds. That's like 20% of their own body weight!

Give your horse the benefit of amazing Cavallo Hoof Boots! Ride through any terrain at any speed with 100% hoof protection. It's That Simple.

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Carole Herder is the Author of the #1 International Bestseller "There Are No Horseshoes in Heaven". Carole has been involved in horse health since 1993. Her Company, Cavallo Horse & Rider Inc. develops, manufactures and distributes horse products in 26 countries worldwide. Carole designed and developed Cavallo Hoof Boots and Total Comfort System Saddle Pads. Providing comfort for horses is Carole's passion. She presents educational trainings around the world on the benefits of keeping horses in their natural state. Ms. Herder is the honoured recipient of the Royal Bank of Canada Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award. She is a Trail Blazer and a proud member of the Women's Presidents Organization, supporting female Entrepreneurs in every industry.



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