



A WELL SHOD HORSE

A well shod horse is the result of co-operation between the farrier, owner and the horse. The farrier brings to the job the skill and knowledge acquired through lengthy apprenticeship, intensive college training and experience.

The horse owner can help the farrier make the best of these skills by:

- making regular appointments as necessary for trimming and shoeing every 4-7 weeks.
- giving adequate notice when additional farriery services are required.
- making available a clean, well lit place, under cover if possible, with a firm level surface to shoe on.
- Always arriving in time for appointments at the forge.
- At home, ensuring the horse is caught, settled and prepared with clean legs and feet, before the farrier arrives.

The horse will be better able to co-operate if used to handling, in order that it will stand quietly while the feet are picked up, trimmed and shod. Proper feeding and regular foot care – picking out feet, (oiling is rarely necessary) – helps build strong horn which makes good shoeing easier.

With co-operation from farrier, owner and horse alike, the best possible farriery service can be given in the interests of the horse – it's comfort, well being and usefulness over a long and active life.



POINTS OF SHOEING

Just as horses and ponies come in all shapes and sizes, so horseshoes and shoeing must vary according to the type of horse and the work it does. However, good farriery practice has some basic requirements.

1. First, the horse must be able to move freely, naturally and comfortably when shod. Good shoeing takes into account the natural line of balance through the limb of the individual horse – each horse is different, and so is its way of going.
2. The hoof evolved to offer a tough, protective, “non slip” base capable of absorbing concussion without the covering of a metal shoe. Whatever shoe is used, the farrier seeks to interfere minimally with the natural foot function and to prevent any alteration of the hoof axis (HPA).
3. As metal shoes prevent feet wearing down, the farrier trims away excess horn to the correct level for weight distribution over the whole foot. The hoof wall should be trimmed to best natural shape - a straight line from coronary band to ground surface, not flaring out or cut back too far. The shoe, chosen as the correct weight and size for the individual horse and the work it is to do, should be fitted level, with clean nail holes evenly spaced between the toe and the quarter. The shoe should be shaped to fit the foot accurately, with the clip bedded into the hoof wall to fit flush.
4. The shoe must be long enough to support the heel and ensure there is no loss of foot bearing surface.
5. When the shoe is fitted, it should appear like an extension of the level, well prepared foot, with no gaps between them. The nails, driven into sound hoof wall, should emerge a third of the way up the foot, and should be turned down into strong clenches, then rasped smooth. The nails should fit the nail holes so that they are level

To sum up the well shod horse has;

- Shoes of the correct weight and size, shaped to fit the foot.
- Level feet, correct limb alignment for free movement.
- No loss of foot bearing surface
- Clenches in a regular line smooth and firm into the hoof wall.
- And last but not least, an owner who realises that foot care is his/her day to day responsibility too.