

# Farrier Facts

1. **Barefoot** means your horse does not wear shoes.



2. What is the difference between a FARRIER and a BLACKSMITH?



A **Blacksmith** does all kinds of iron work, not just horseshoes.

A **Farrier** is a hoof care specialist.



3. Hooves are growing all the time. How fast do hooves grow?  $\frac{1}{4}$ " per month.



4. Why TRIM the hooves?

A horse's hoof GROWS faster than it WEARS DOWN.



1> Too long hooves puts a strain on their **legs** and can cause stumbling and tripping.

2> Some horses hooves grow **unevenly** which will put them out of balance and make it hard to move well.

3> Too-long hooves may **crack** and break, leaving the horse sore, out of balance, and un-rideable.

4> It is unkind and unsafe to neglect your horse's feet, even if you are not riding him.



5. Why put shoes on your horse?



a. **Protection** – protect hooves from excessive wear and damage. Wear & Tear can cause tenderness and lameness.

b. **Traction**: To prevent slipping. Some traction devices are; rims, calks, studs, or Borium; mostly used for jumping.

c. **Improve gait**: to correct gait or movement problems due to conformation defects

d. **Soundness**: special shoes may be needed to help with unsoundness such as navicular or founder.



6. Side **Clips** are used to prevent the shoes from slipping back on the hoof.



7. What tools should you have to pull a shoe in an emergency?



**Pincers** to pull the shoe &



a **rasp** to file down uneven parts of the hoof

## 8. Signs of GOOD shoeing?



- Shoe** is right size for the hoof. Shoe fits the hoof, rather than the hoof has been filed down to fit the shoe.
- Frog** and sole have not been cut away too much; the frog just slightly touches soft ground.
- Type of shoe is suitable to the work. And the weight of the shoe is suitable for the size of the horse.
- Heels are not too long or too short.
- Foot lands **evenly** without twisting or rocking
- Angle of hoof is the same angle of the pastern.
- Clinches are **smooth**, tight and in an even line.
- Farrier takes time to watch the horse move before and after shoeing.



### USPC Rating Requirements:

C2 - • Recognize and describe good and bad shoeing

## 9. Signs of BAD shoeing?



- Too much of the **frog** is cut away. If it doesn't touch the ground it can't do its job of absorbing **shock** and pumping blood through the lower leg
- Too much of the sole cut way. This can make the horse's feet tender
- Shoes too **small**.



- "Dumped" means the front of the hoof was rasped straight down to meet a too-small shoe; it looks like it was chopped off in the front of the toe.
  - If the heels of the shoe are too short, they do not support the foot properly.
- Too much rasping of the outer surface of the hoof. This removed the "periople" and can result in **dry hooves** that crack easily.
  - Clenches** are sharp, uneven, or very low
  - The farrier is in a hurry, does not take time to watch the horse move, or rasps down to fit the shoe.

## 10. How often should a FARRIER trim your horse's hoofs?

- Every **6** to **8** weeks



11. Why don't horses in the wild need horseshoes?

- a. Wild horses are moving up to **20** miles per day, travelling on hard ground which allows the hoof to stay trimmed at a healthy, natural length. Domesticated horses stand for long periods in soft, or wet, or manure covered ground which weakens the hoof and fails to create enough friction to keep the hooves naturally trimmed.



12. What are the signs you need to call the farrier?

> Long **toe**



> Cracked or broken **hoof**

> Clenches raised

> Shoe too far forward, and too short at the heel.

> Bent or missing **nails**

> Loose **shoe**



**USPC Rating Requirements:**

D3 - • Describe obvious signs of a hoof needing shoeing or trimming

13. What is HOT shoeing?

Using a hot forge to heat the iron and make or modify the shoes. The hot horseshoe is pressed against the bottom of the **HOOF** and leaves a mark. This mark tells the farrier if the shoe is the right **SIZE** and if the hoof is **EVEN**.

a. Does it hurt the horse? **NO**

b. Why would you ask for hot shoeing?

Because pre-made shoes don't **FIT** your horse or your horse needs special shoes



14. Pre-made shoes are also called **KEG** shoes.



# Healthy Hooves



# Unhealthy Hooves

