

THE SHOE BOX

To shoe or not to shoe.....

Let's take look at common problems and see what a farrier will recommend:

<u>Problem or Discipline</u>	<u>Farrier Solution</u>
Wears hoof wall faster than growth rate.....	SHOES
Navicular Syndrome.....	Special SHOES
Founder	Heart Bar SHOES
Western Pleasure	¾ Rim SHOES
Hunters	Egg Bar SHOES
Tennessee Walkers	OMG SHOES
Ropers	Full Rim SHOES
Dressage	Egg Bar SHOES
Western Trail	Toe Grab SHOES
Jumpers.....	Aluminum Egg Bar SHOES
Pasture Pet.....	Whatever's-on-the-truck SHOES
Gaited Horse.....	Gaited SHOES
Stifle.....	Handmade-Special-Each-Visit SHOES
Rain Rot.....	SHOES

Okay. Most farriers will not recommend shoes for a Horse with rain rot, but they are taught that shoes are the answer to almost every problem a Horse can have.

Most Farriers in America have attended some type of Horse Shoeing School or apprentice program. While this can be great source of knowledge, some so-called schools produce more harmful "professionals" than they do knowledgeable Hoof care providers. This makes for a lot of well-liked farriers that do an outstanding job of keeping shoes on a problem Horse, but have very little knowledge of WHY they are doing what they do. They shoe because that is what they know. Shoeing is the BOX they have nailed themselves into, and Horses for the most part do NOT like boxes. (That's why trailer loading takes so much training). So if Horses are outside the Shoe Box.....why aren't you???

Let me be real clear here, I wouldn't want you to think I am a "every Horse should be barefoot trimmer" -- I most certainly am not. I have and I will continue to shoe Horses when they NEED them. And for me, that's the key: NEEDS THEM. Scroll back up to the problem or discipline chart. See the first one: "Wears hoof wall faster than growth rate"? When I get a call about this condition my first



David Qualls
Shoe - Less Farrier Services
678-314-0381
www.davidqualls.net

thought is not “put shoes on” but more like, what is this Horses environment like? What is this Horse being asked to do for a living? Is the Horse soundly Balanced? Would riding boots be a viable substitute? If “we” shoe this Horse is it going to be allowed to have shoeing breaks? (a MUST for me, otherwise I’m not interested).

This approach seems to have placed my thought patterns outside most farriers' Shoe Box, and some of these farriers get down right mad when one of their “brothers” escapes their box. But the way I see it, I’m in better company outside that box. Remember...That’s where the Horses are at!!!



David Qualls
Shoe - Less Farrier Services
678-314-0381
www.davidqualls.net