

Cavallo Hoof Boots

Your Hoof Boot Questions Answered

Why should I Use Cavallos instead of traditional Metal Shoes?

Today there are technically advanced compounds that have far greater shock-absorbing features than metal. Take a metal shoe and bang it against a hard surface. You will feel the tremors vibrate up your arm. Try it. In fact, even the nails cause vibration which will compromise the integrity and break down hoof structure.

Before our current level of technology, metal may have been the best we could do, but now we have Cavallo Boots that absorb concussion, rather than transmit it, so that the sensitive Lamellae of the hoof are not compromised but instead are supported. The main support system of the coffin bone can remain strong and integral when the high frequency vibration of impact on metal is not constantly jarring. Imagine your Nike running shoe with a metal sole!

How do I know if my Hoof Boots fit properly?

You should not have to force the boot on the horse's hoof in any way. If you are having to force the boot on it is too small.

If the boot is rotating independently from the horse's hoof it is too big. A wiggle is okay because the hoof expands in weight bearing and even further in movement.

Remember that there is a break-in period like your own boots when you first get them. The first day the boots shouldn't be worn for more than 20 minutes. You wouldn't put on brand new boots and go walking for hours; treat your horse's new boots as you would your own. You can speed up the break-in process by using leather softener or riding through water.

What size Cavallos do I get for my horse?

(Please refer to our Sizing Charts for actual Hoof Boot measurements.) Measure the hoof length carefully just after a fresh trim. Do NOT include heel bulbs. Stay within the hoof size range as room for growth has already been allowed for between regular trims.

Cavallo Special Tips

The weight-bearing LENGTH indicates the SIMPLE size necessary. However it is a good idea to take width measurements as well since that helps to confirm you have chosen the correct size.

You may wish to measure each hoof as they may differ in size requiring two different pairs.

Only new UNUSED boots can be exchanged. To keep the boot clean, we suggest covering the hoof with thin plastic and checking fit on a non-scuff (not gravel), clean, dry surface.

Are Cavallo Boots for the front hooves only?

Cavallo boots can be used on either the front or hind hooves, or both. Most riders find that they only need the boots on the front to keep their horse comfortable on all terrain but if you find that your horse would benefit from wearing them all on the hind, that is fine to do as well.

The front legs load 70% of the weight of the horse and most of the conditions such as navicular, laminitis, calcifications, abscessing, bruising et cetera, occur on the fronts. The hind legs are more for propulsion. You can certainly start with boots on the front only and then just monitor the situation as you go along. It really depends on a variety of issues such as how well the hooves are conditioned to the terrain you are riding on, the internal health of the hoof and any pre-existing conditions in the foot.

If you find your horse is tender on the hinds, please measure them separately from the front as they may be a size smaller and are often narrower.

Should I buy Simple or Sport Boots for my horse

The **Simple** Boot is the multi-purpose, all terrain '**hiking boot**' with a complete leather upper. The **Sport** Boot is the lighter '**action boot**'.

Sport is designed for the narrower hoof, with a built-in breakover and heel "skid" break. It has less traction than Simple, is slightly lighter weight and has reflective piping for night safety. Because of its narrower shape it is also great for hind hooves.

Both boots have Cavallo's signature front opening system, built-in drainage, soft leather foam filled collar and backflap bulb protection.

If your horse's hoof is **long and narrow**, go for **Sport**. If it is **round**, equal length and width – go for **Simple**.

Fitting Tips

Sole: The sole of the hoof should fit securely inside the boot sole. Ensure that the entire weight-bearing wall from front of toe to heel buttress sits within the Boot outsole.

Outer Cover: Ensure that the boot tongue is pushed firmly against the hoof. Draw the outer flaps firmly around the hoof, pressing the Velcro on the flaps against the Velcro on the tongue, keep taut and level.

Twisting: If the boot twists or moves excessively, it may be too big or the outer cover may be loosely fastened.

Too Small: If you have difficulty putting the hoof boot on, it may be too small, ideally the boot "snaps" nicely onto the hoof for a good fit.

Pastern Wraps: May be used to assist in the breaking-in process to prevent chafing.

Gel Pads: can be used during transition and for extra comfort for your horse. Gel pads can also help tighten up a boot that may be slightly loose when the horse has a fresh trim.

Once the Boot is Fitted: If the strap extends beyond the nylon keeper, then you can cut the strap to the preferred length, leaving a line of stitching to prevent unravelling. (Only applies to Simple Boot).

How long can Cavallo Boots be worn at one time?

As is the case with your own leather riding boots, Cavallo boots become more comfortable with use over time. Rider's should allow their horses to 'break-in' their boots gradually starting with 15-20 minutes and increasing from there, while monitoring the comfort of the hooves.

Wearing your Cavallos in water or using a leather condition to "work" the leather will hasten the softening progress.

Some horses begin wearing boots as a result of an injury or condition whereby they cannot wear metal shoes.

Cavallo hoof protection can be worn for extended periods of time, using Pastern Wraps to help prevent any chaffing. Remove the boots daily to check the hooves to be sure no unnecessary problems are developing.

If you notice excessive wear, remove the boots immediately.

Can I use Cavallo Boots on top of Metal Shoes?

Many people do indeed use Cavallo Boots in combination with metal shoes. The Cavallo Boot TPU (thermos plastic urethane) sole can assist in absorbing the shock and resulting vibration up the horse's structure and prevent bruising while transporting your horse or working on hard surfaces. Cavallo cannot guarantee that the boots will hold up over prolonged use, to the force of metal, protruding nails or sharp edges and thus the warranty is void with this usage.

The purpose of Cavallo boots is really to help keep your Barefoot horse naturally comfortable on all terrains at any speed.

Cavallo Special Care Tips

- To reduce the risks of bacterial build up mix a solution of 50% Apple Cider Vinegar to water and spray into the boot and on the hoof sole regularly.
- If leaving horses unattended with Simple Boots on you may wish to cover the straps with duct tape or anything that will keep the horse from playing with the straps and possibly destroying your boots. Failure to take precautions may void the warranty.
- Extending the life of your Hoof Boots can be accomplished by using an insole of thick leather or foam padding which will decrease the direct wear on the sole of the boot. You can replace the pads when they appear to be wearing and thereby lengthen the life of the sole of your boots.