

## November 2005 Review

I have recently taken the shoes off my Quarter Horse who has really thin hoof walls so being barefoot was an option, but needed to be done carefully. I needed to make the transition as easy as I could....

So, I tried the Castle Hoof Boot by Castle Plastics .

They are made of a sprayed polyurethane bottom and a neoprene top, with a velcro closure, very snug and comfortable!

It is the type of fastener that cannot be pulled too tight, it is very elastic and pulls tightly behind the hoof in two places for extra security. There is nothing to rub the leg or coronary band area, just soft neoprene on the top of the boot.

I turned her out in the pasture and checked her twice a day, for any rubs on her leg, tears to the boot, objects caught in the boot, but there was never an issue. It never rubbed, never cause any sore and was very easy to clean. She was sound and did not seem sore with these boots on. To clean them, I just ran the hose over it rubbed off any dirt, then hung it out to dry . Simple!

It is also wonderful to keep poultices in place, for abscesses or any other injury that may need wrapping...this is much easier than a wrap and it so much better for the horse. He has a stable surface to walk on and a neoprene top to hold any poultice in place on the hoof area.

These don't take the place of an iron shoe, but for any barefoot horse, I would recommend using these for riding or turnout.

To size them, all you need to do is measure the hoof across at its widest spot, then from the base of the heel to the point of the toe. There is a chart on their website to know which size to order. The website is <http://www.castleplastics.com/hoofboots.htm>  
Their phone # is 1-800-9CASTLE.

