

American Equestrian Alliance

Farrier Safety Guidelines

A farrier's routine work is primarily hoof trimming and shoeing. In ordinary cases, it is important to trim each hoof so it retains its proper orientation to the ground. If the animal has a heavy work load, works on abrasive footing, needs additional traction, or has pathological changes in the hoof, then shoes may be required.

Additional tasks for the farrier include dealing with injured or diseased hooves and application of special shoes for **rac**ing, training or "cosmetic" purposes. Horses with certain diseases or injuries may need remedial procedures for their hooves, or need special shoes

The hazards associated with the horse shoeing is the topic of this resource and they should not be underestimated. The potential for accidents in a trade which involves working with large horses and hot metal, cannot not be overstated.

1. Work area should be a minimum of 12 feet by 18 feet. Clear barn area away from traffic and distractions. Crossties in an area where there are no restrictions front or back is permissible.
2. Area should be well lighted and ventilated
3. Avoid cluttered areas with tack boxes, saddle racks, grooming and feed bins.
4. Use a properly fitted, sound halter with a good rope of adequate length.
5. Farrier assistant should be experienced with horses and have ability to anticipate and control horse reactions. He should be instructed to advise the farrier before taking any disciplinary action.
6. Farrier assistant should never stand directly in front of the hores. He should be positioned near the shoulder on the same side as the farrier is working.
7. Fly spray should be used prior to farrier arrival and while horse is being shod.
8. Use a nose or lip chain when necessary, but only if you are familiar with using a chain in this manner.
9. Farrier and assistant should always wear close toed shoes. Steel toe reinforced should be given serious consideration.
10. Refrain from scheduling appointments near feeded times.
11. Make sure barn dogs are confined or on leads and kept away from working area.