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From: [A & M Baylis](#)

Date: 05/24/05 18:42:35

To: [Adrian](#)

Dear Adrian, thanks I ordered the toe stoppers this morning. I changed the sizes as per your telephone message.

As discussed I think clogs should be taken off the market as they are extremely dangerous. Anyone I know with young children who have their children wearing the "traditional clog" believing that this is the safest thing to do. IT IS THIS THINKING/IGNORANCE THAT MAKES THEM EVEN MORE DANGEROUS. It is not until you experience an accident that you realise how bad they are.

I grew up on a farm and learnt to ride horses at a very young age.(wearing clogs) I think out of pure luck I didn't ever have any bad falls. Now I have 3 girls of my own - 2 1/2, 4 and 5 1/2 years old. I have been teaching the girls to ride on Shetland ponies. The children always wear riding boots with elastic sides, safety helmets and what I thought was safe the "traditional clogs". Thinking that if the kids did fall off it would just be a matter of brushing the dust off and getting back on the pony!!!!

A few weeks ago we were leading the two younger girls on their ponies in a small paddock. We were having a lovely morning until both the ponies got a fright and jumped forward. Both kids fell from the ponies and were hanging from the saddle with their feet wedged in the clogs. Luckily the ponies stopped and the girls feet came out of their riding boots (not sure in what order). But the riding boot of my youngest was still wedged in the clog after the fall. Which is also very surprising as you would think the smallest boot would come out of the clog. (She was wearing a C7) The girls were very lucky to have escaped without injury as they both ended up under the ponies legs when they swung out of their boots. Very terrifying experience to see your two precious girls for an instance hanging out of what you thought was the safest piece of riding equipment for kids.

Anyway the next weekend (still obviously ignorant to the dangers) my husband was leading my 4 year old on the pony. Again the kids still had their clogs on. A cat jumped out of the tree and the pony got a fright. This time I saw the whole thing as I was behind my husband with the other kids. This accident was alot worse as she was dragged for a metre or two with her foot wedged in the clog. Eventually her foot came out of the riding boot but she ended up under the pony and as a result ended up with a few bruises on her arm. Luckily my husband kept hold of the horse lead and the pony stopped. But more importantly the foot came out the riding boot. That finished me - the clogs have been thrown out - except for one that I will use as an example to any friends that visit.

I will also note that the ponies are quiet and the frights were just one of those things that goes with horse riding. These are the only falls the girls have had in the last year or so.

After the second episode I decided enough was enough and decided to search the internet for information on safety equipment for horse riding. I now realise that there have been other accidents with children getting feet wedged in clogs. My kids were the lucky ones and did not have any lasting injuries.

I now have researched "Toe Stoppers" and have ordered 3 pairs for the girls.

I am just amazed because Australia is such a safety conscious country that "clogs" can still be sold as a safety device or even sold at all. Dangerous toys etc are always being taken off the market and it is now time people are educated about how dangerous clogs are.

Please send me some Toe Stopper brochures so that I can distribute them.

Kind Regards
Melissa Baylis
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