

**Tried & tested extra**

# Best foot forward

Health and safety products for you and your horse.



## Barrier's Formula Hoof & Hair from Barrier Animal Healthcare **£27.75**

**Your Horse tester:** Cathy Lammie

**User profile:** Cathy is Your Horse products editor, a BHSII and has experience competing to Novice level eventing.

**Manufacturer's comments:** An appetising supplement with nutrients to encourage healthy, supple horn growth. Contents include biotin, zinc, methionine, lysine and vitamin B for keratin and collagen formation. Added garlic, fenugreek and ginger are high in antioxidants to aid digestion and circulation, cleanse the blood and improve palatability. The supplement contains no animal by-products and is guaranteed free from theobromine, caffeine and all other prohibited substances under current FEI and Jockey Club of Britain rules. In small pellet form, a 5kg bucket provides an average-size (544kg) horse with one month's supply.

**Price:** £27.75

**For details, tel:** 01953 456363 or visit: [www.barrier-biotech.com](http://www.barrier-biotech.com)

**Comments:** I fed Hoof & Hair to my seven-year-old mare, Pye, once a day for a year. Before using it, Pye needed a half bar shoe as the horn on the inside near fore was affected by an old over-reach injury causing weak and irregular horn growth. Also, Pye's previous owner had not turned her out, so her hooves were soft and flaky and her feet susceptible to bruises and abscesses. After three months, Pye had no problems with her feet and there were no adverse effects. After nine months, as advised, I halved the amount and her feet maintained the new healthy horn growth. Used in conjunction with good farriery, Hoof & Hair proved a worthwhile purchase for me.

### Verdict

An easy-to-feed, effective hoof supplement, but be patient as it can take two months to see any sign of new growth.



## Toe Stopper from Intelligent Ideas & Concepts **£27.95 per pair**

**Your Horse tester:** Marian Browne

**User profile:** Marian is a senior instructor at a large equestrian centre, teaching varying levels of ability, including disabled riders.

**Manufacturer's comments:** A moulded rubber device that attaches to the stirrup irons with Velcro to stop the rider's foot slipping through and keep it in the correct position. It also helps improve rider balance and technique and is suitable for riders at all levels. Approved for use under BSJA and Pony Club rules. Available in sizes 3 1/2" - 5 1/2" (for sizing, a 4" stirrup requires a 4" Toe Stopper).

**Price:** £27.95 per pair

**For details, tel:** 01647 440273 or visit:

[www.toestoppersalesuk.co.uk](http://www.toestoppersalesuk.co.uk)

**Comments:** The Toe Stoppers were easy to fit to the stirrup with two Velcro straps that attached either side of the stirrup leather and one to secure the base.

I used them mainly for novice riders, more experienced riders with weak lower leg positions and disabled riders. They all found the Toe Stoppers kept the stirrup iron on the ball of their foot and put their legs in the correct position, which felt strange at first. Riders could concentrate more on other aspects of their riding and showed positive improvement because they didn't have to worry about their feet slipping through the stirrups.

### Verdict

A great invention to keep your feet from slipping through the stirrups, invaluable if your lower leg position is insecure.