

WORLD-CLASS GROOMING *for Horses*

CAT HILL AND EMMA FORD
WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY JESSICA DAILEY

The
English Rider's
Complete Guide
to Daily Care and
Competition



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW FROM THE PROS WITH OVER 1200 PHOTOS!

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Shipping Boots



Shipping Gear

There are many discussions over what protective gear a horse should wear while being shipped. It comes down to the horse's comfort and your personal choice. Whether traveling a short distance or across the country, some protection can be the difference between a sliced tendon or clean legs on arrival. Your protective choices are as follows:

- Shipping boots
- Pillow wraps and standing bandages
- Galloping boots and bell boots
- Bare legs

Shipping Boots

1 Probably considered the most convenient, there are many brands of differing quality. They basically all offer similar protection from above the knee and hocks—downward. There are some that are short, thus not protecting the knees or hocks. These are great for ponies! The more expensive brands like Lende® are made with stiff materials than some of the cheaper brands. Lende boots are very hard-wearing; they provide great protection and do not slip down the leg—that is, when put on correctly!



Continued ▶

2 As with most horse boots, always pull the Velcro across the front of the cannon. Do the middle strap first, then the top and bottom.

3 There should be even pressure on all straps.

4 The boot should sit just off the ground.

5 A & B **Wrong:** Upside down.

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Shipping Boots (Cont.)



6



7



8



9A



9B

6 Wrong: The Velcro can be rubbed loose when it faces the inside of the leg.

7 Hind boots have four straps.

8 Set hind boots a bit high when you put them on because they often “sink” a bit as the horse walks onto the trailer.

9 A & B Do the middle straps first, then the bottom and top.

10 Set correctly.

When the horse walks, you might see “spider legs” behind. A horse not used to these boots sometimes lifts up his hind legs very high and awkwardly before taking a step forward. Be patient with him, he will normally figure it out pretty quickly. Some brands of shipping boots are made out of softer material that is more form-fitting to the legs. You must be careful with these since the material can get weak, causing the top part of the boot to collapse. Not only have you now lost protection of the hocks and knees, but the boots are likely to slip, which can aggravate the horse, making him kick or dance around.



10

barn gossip

Phillip Dutton's Connaught (“Simon”) hated shipping boots. He would refuse to walk in them. I even tried putting them on once he was loaded, but this made him even more nervous. So he always traveled in quilts and bandages—as well as bell boots all around—due to his moving around a lot in the trailer. I eventually found soft-padded hock boots that I could put on once he was in the trailer. He would tolerate these and they prevented him from getting hock rubs caused by his occasional bucking sprees while being shipped! —Emma

Shipping Boots in Hot Weather

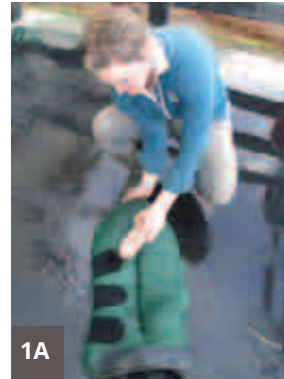
Some people question whether to put these boots on in hot weather. We are constantly aiming for cool, tight legs, especially after a hard workout. It seems counter-productive to ice your horse's legs after competition and then stuff him in a trailer with shipping boots on to add to the heat. But, there is significant risk of injury when he is unprotected in the trailer since you never know if you will need to slam on the brakes. You can always do a cool-out session when you get home.

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Taking Care of Shipping Boots

1 A & B Shipping boots, especially the hind ones, should be scrubbed off with a detergent after use. This helps them have a longer life. Accumulation of sweat and manure weakens the materials over time. Too much machine washing and drying breaks down the foam and creates limp boots.

Taking Care of Shipping Boots



Pillow Wraps and Standing Bandages

1 If you prefer to wrap your horse, thick pillow quilts like Wilker's and flannel wraps are the best option. You need to have extra-long wraps that cover the pastern as opposed to regular standing-wrap length. Due to their non-elasticity, flannel wraps are safer to use for long hauling. They cannot get over-tightened and cause damage to the leg.

2 With bell boots already on, start with your big pillow quilt right below the knee: it should go to just above the coronary band. Remember, anytime you wrap, it's front to back on the outside of the leg.

3 Start the flannel wrap at the top of the leg toward the front of the cannon.

4 Due to the quilt's long length, you will need to leave extra space between each turn of the wrap.

5 Wrap all the way to the fetlock, then go one more wrap so you are past the ankle joint.

6 Head back up the leg, being careful not to have lumps or creases at the turn.

7 End your wrap squarely across the top of the quilt.

Pillow Wraps and Standing Bandages



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Galloping Boots and Bell Boots



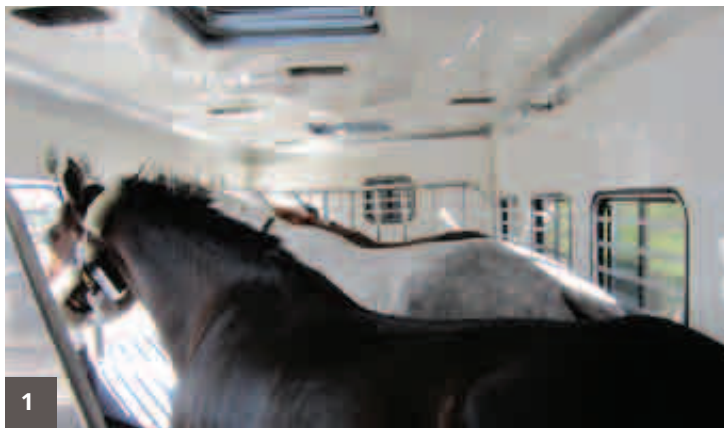
1

As an extra safety precaution you can use masking tape around the Velcro at the end. Remember not to place the tape on tighter than the bandage because it will cause a pressure point.

Galloping Boots and Bell Boots

1 When traveling short distances, maybe to a dressage lesson or jumping school, using work boots and bell boots is an option. This is not recommended for long trips due to lack of air flow around the tendons that can cause considerable heating up of the area.

Temperature Control



1

Bare Legs

A horse that does not wear shoes can travel relatively safely with no leg protection. With a young horse or inexperienced shipper we recommend getting him used to wearing protective gear before you load him on a trailer. Putting shipping boots on him at home in his stall helps to desensitize him to the sensation of “something” on his legs. There are situations where shipping a horse with no leg protection is the only option: some horses simply do not learn that protective gear is good for them and will paw, kick, buck, or otherwise act out when you put anything on. If he will tolerate bell boots, you can at least help prevent shoes from being torn off. At the end of the day though, a quiet horse is less likely to do himself damage than a worried or stressed horse.



2A



2B



2C

Temperature Control

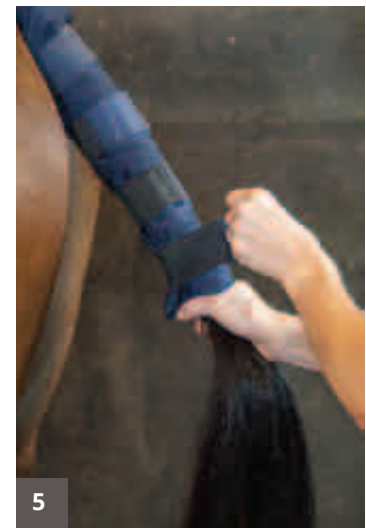
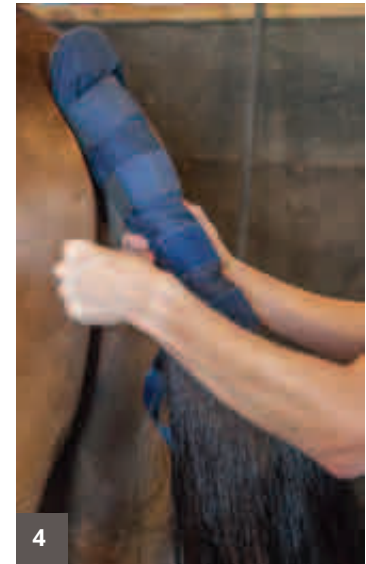
Clothing your horse during shipping depends on a few different factors:

Outside Temperature

If you are beginning your trip in Vermont and heading to Florida in January, think about layering your horse so that as the weather warms up, you can remove a layer to keep your horse comfortable. An Irish knit with a good woolly on top is a good option (see p. 65). Be careful that attachments are in good working order so that slippage doesn't occur, and never put

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Tail Guard



on a blanket that doesn't have a belly strap or tail strap: a blanket can easily fall around your horse's neck, causing him to step on it—and panic.

Number of Horses Traveling

1 Take this into account because horses produce a lot of their own body heat: a two-horse bumper-pull with two on board generates more heat than a trailer with just one horse, so blanket accordingly. You will find many of the commercial rigs with 12 horses loaded ship "naked" in the winter because the horses maintain enough heat, amongst themselves.

Amount of Trailer Ventilation

2 A-C Trailers vary in the amount of ventilation they provide. It is important to have plenty of good air flowing: it's better to add a blanket than close all vents and leave the horse uncovered.

Tail Protection

You have the option of using protective tail guards or tail wraps to keep your horse's tail in good shape when trailering. You can create an inexpensive tail wrap using an Ace™ bandage, or purchase a sturdy, stretchy one from a tack supplier. For a long trip, use a tail

guard rather than a wrap. When you are sure your horse does not sit on his hindquarters while being shipped, nothing is required, but most people protect the tail in some fashion.

Tail Guard

1 These can be made out of nylon, cotton, or neoprene, and all have Velcro fastenings. Some have an attached bag to cover the entire tail length, which is not a bad idea for that grey tail on the way to a show!

2 Put the tail over your shoulder, and get the tail wrap as high up the tailbone as possible.

3 Do the top strap up first.

4 Work down the tail guard, making sure the wrap is snug but not tight.

5 The last one should be pulled quite snug.