

9/25/06

Hi Adrian,

I've been distributing and selling your FANTASTIC Toe Stoppers for two years now and I have some interesting stories that customers have shared with me as to why they are purchasing Toe Stoppers.

First was with a customer who was NOT going to use the peacock stirrups (the kind that have the rubber band straps) any more because a horrible incident that happened to a pony club in her state, out east. TWICE in a period of just over a year, and in both cases the child came off their mount and their helmet strap got hooked on the knob of the stirrup where the rubber band hooks! As the horse went nuts and before it could be stopped both children – according to the lady, had their necks snapped and both died. She gave me the contact information of the club and I was planning to get the complete story. I did call but when they answered I hung up.... How could I do this? I felt it was too morbid and could not peruse the interview so I hung up. But this incidence was in the papers. So the rubber band safety stirrups are NOT the answer.

About the cage stirrups that I use to sell, thinking that they are the answer. They too can catch your foot. If you are wearing boots with pointy toes the toe can and has gotten stuck in the forward open V at the front of the cage! I don't sell those anymore either.

Now for the safety S irons, they are not the answer either. My college, Lynn Lenonard wrote me a testimonial, of having her foot hooked in the stirrup! Fortunately Lynn was only spun around and then her foot was free – thank God. She also was wearing a helmet that protected her head for when she was spun against the ground her head hit a rock.

The last case of horror for me was in July of this year, was when Dan Krieger from Indiana called needing Toe Stoppers. He had been and was still healing up from being drug using Kwick-Out irons! These are the VERY same stirrups I use on my children's English saddles and when they were younger the stirrups I put on their little western saddles!!! **Oh my GOD.... How could these not work?** Well here is how. These stirrups are designed for a fall from the side of a horse. With this type of fall, the side of the stirrup opens outward when pressure is applied. Well, Dan came off his horse from over the front – over the horse's head. The stirrup had forward, **not** side-pressure, and so his foot was locked in! He was drug and then spun around and he was flailing around as his horse went nuts. After a bit his foot came out, but not soon enough for he got really banged up. Needless to say I now have Toe Stoppers in all my Kwick-Out irons. I still have inventory of these very expensive irons that I now do not know what to do with now... I can't donate them or sell them knowing that they present this type of rider risk. Ugh...

As for Toe Stoppers, I take them along when we ride abroad as we do with our riding helmets. Here is a photo of my daughter and I in France just 3 weeks ago. Since we did not know what size irons they would have, we took a pair of 4.5 and 4 ¾ inch along. Can you believe they put us in English saddles with English leathers and western stirrups? I got the toe stoppers to work, for the top bar of the western stirrup was 3 inches across which left an inch on either side for the English ToeStopper straps. The 4 ½ were perfect and the others just did not slide in as far, but that is OK cause I ride with the just tip of my toe anyway.

Now for the latest: I do not know if you saw the TV show just last night of the Great Race. It is a reality TV show of couples racing around the world doing wild things trying to win a million dollars. I caught a preview of a lady being drug, so I watched the show. They – the outfitters provided helmets but the saddles had regular irons. The young lady's horse acted up and she came off getting drug for some distance with her foot caught in the iron. When she finally broke free, she was OK but limping. I am so amazed that when a production company does these types shows they do not research the safety equipment available to keep their contestants safe. They might as well not use a safety rope when constantans are rock climbing, cause not having Toe Stopper on stirrups is just about that stupid too!

Adrian, I have told you before, but thank you again from the hundreds of us in the USA who your product has already helped! You and your product have forever changed the course of equestrian safety.

GOD BLES.

~ Cathy Sheets Tauer

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