

**THE JOCKEY CLUB
THOROUGHBRED SAFETY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION
JUNE 17, 2008**

Editor's Note: On July 22, 2009, this recommendation was modified to permit short toe grabs no greater than 4 mm on the front shoes of Thoroughbreds on dirt racing surfaces only. [Click here](#) for the press release that explains the modification.

Recommendation on Shoes and Hoof Care:

Based on published research*, prior considerations and recommendations brought forward from the 2006 Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit Shoeing and Hoof Care Committee and recent discussions with persons with expertise in shoeing matters, The Jockey Club's Thoroughbred Safety Committee ("Committee") calls for:

"An immediate ban on toe grabs other than wear plates with a height no greater than 2 millimeters, and the elimination of bends, jar caulks, stickers and any other traction device worn on the front shoes of Thoroughbred horses while racing or training on all racing surfaces."

Further, the Committee calls for:

- The Association of Racing Commissioners' International and all North American racing authorities to implement this ban by model rule as soon as possible, but no later than December 31, 2008.
- As an interim measure, all racetracks should immediately consider implementation of this ban by "house rule."

In addition, the Committee encourages:

- The development of educational guidebooks and DVDs on proper hoof care and shoeing for trainers and owners.
- Racing authorities to establish requirements for continuing education on the proper care and welfare of the Thoroughbred racehorse in order for trainers to renew their license.
- Racing authorities establish certification criteria for farriers practicing within the enclosure of licensed racetracks and training facilities.

Finally, the Thoroughbred Safety Committee hereby requests submission of abstracts of existing research on the effects of toe grabs and traction devices, and calls for proposals for research on the effects of toe grabs and other traction devices on rear shoes on Thoroughbred racehorses on all racing surfaces during racing and training be developed and submitted immediately (or no later than October 1, 2008) to the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation.

* Kane AJ, Stover SM, Gardner IA, et. al. Horseshoe characteristics as possible risk factors for fatal musculoskeletal injury of thoroughbred racehorses. *Am J Vet Res* 1996; 57:1147-1152.