

## *Safe Footwear Policy*

### **Purpose**

The Earlham College Equestrian Program strives to create a safe environment for all of its members. As a function of this, the Safe Footwear Policy outlines the correct footwear to be worn at the facility in an attempt to insure the highest degree of safety.

### **Policy**

#### **A. Co-op members**

1. While mounted: Co-op members must wear riding boots or similar footwear while riding.
  - a. With a saddle/stirrups: When riding with stirrups, appropriate footwear is something narrow enough that it slides easily out the back of the stirrup and will not become stuck. Shoes must also have a small heel that will keep the foot from sliding through the stirrup. Sneakers are appropriate only when they meet these requirements.
  - b. Riding bareback or without stirrups: When riding without stirrups, co-op members must wear closed-toed and closed-heeled shoes. They are encouraged to wear riding boots or other shoes with a hard toe to ensure their safety.
2. When unmounted: While in the barn or on the barn property but not riding, co-op members must wear closed-toed and closed-heeled shoes. These shoes need not be riding boots.

#### **B. Lesson Students**

1. Lesson students are required to wear appropriate footwear at all times while at the barn.
  - a. Appropriate footwear includes riding boots or other similar shoes, and is narrow enough that it slides easily out the back of the stirrup and will not become stuck.
  - b. Shoes must also have a small heel that will keep the foot from sliding through the stirrup.
  - c. Sneakers are appropriate only when they meet these requirements. Sandals of any kind are not permitted.
2. Lesson students are not required to purchase their own boots, but they must wear shoes that fit these requirements.
  - a. Extra boots can be found in the school horse tack room, and lesson instructors should assist lesson students in finding appropriate shoes.
  - b. If a lesson student does not agree to these terms, they may ride only without stirrups. If they refuse, they must sit out of the lesson.
  - c. Instructors are responsible for ensuring that their students wear appropriate footwear.

#### **C. Working students:**

1. Working students must wear closed-toed and closed-heeled shoes while working at the barn and around horses. Appropriate shoes include paddock boots, sneakers, muck boots, etc. Sandals or other open-toed shoes are not permitted.