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## **Revolutionary New Safety Stirrup Boosts Rider Confidence While Reducing Injuries**

Melville, Sask. Canada Sept, 2010 -- The thought of being dragged by a panicking horse is every riders worst nightmare. The majority of serious injuries occur when a rider is thrown from the horse which is often accompanied by dragging. While the majority of riders think "it won't happen to me" it happens all too frequently. Injuries sustained from being dragged can be serious and life threatening.

When Dawn Harrold, director of Saddlemart, happened to stumble across Smart-Rider Breakaway Stirrups while browsing the web, she jumped at the chance to be able to offer such an excellent product to all equestrians and became the North American Distributor for Smart-Rider. As a rider herself, Dawn knows the reality of injuries from being dragged when her friend Angela, an experienced endurance rider, was recently hung up in the stirrups. She was freed from her stirrups when her stirrup leather broke but still sustained head & body injuries and a 3 day hospital stay. Dawn says " When my friend Angela told me about her accident, it really hit home about safety. Being hung up in your stirrups is a very real possibility for anyone who rides. This is a piece of equipment every rider should have, along with an approved safety helmet and proper footwear - every ride, every time. The Smart-Rider Breakaway Stirrups are now on all my saddles."

The Smart-Rider Breakaway Stirrup were designed by an Australian horseman who's friend had died from sustaining critical injuries after falling from his horse and being dragged along the ground. Smart-Rider Breakaway Stirrups offer an English and Western version of the stirrup.

Geared towards Western riders, the 'Escape' provides an alternative to standard Western stirrups. Designed to actively disengage and release the rider's foot by breaking away as the foot rotates backwards, releasing the stirrup and reducing the risk of injury. Made from a high tech light weight material and available in an array of colours, the 'Escape' stirrups are practical, durable and add confidence to the rider knowing that you have a greater chance of your foot being released if you fall from your horse. The 'Escape' innovative design also doubles as a stirrup extender for those who need that little extra help mounting and can be accessorized with leather side covers for a more "authentic" Western stirrup look. The 'Escape' is currently in use by the New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria Mounted Police forces.

The Smart-Rider 'Classic' Breakaway Stirrup is the English version and a revolutionary concept that has been over 15 years in the making. Designed to breakaway as the rider falls to the ground, the foot rotates backward and triggers the inner bar to release. The release mechanism is a precision engineered safety device designed to release itself when it reaches a 72 backward angle or a 45 forward angle. the 'Classic' is made from 316 marine grade steel and has been tested in accordance with international standards by TUV Testing Facility in Munich (ISO 9001/9002). The 'Classic' Breakaway Stirrup can be used on the trail or in the showring. The 'Classic' is now a favourite with many professional riders such as John Whittaker, Frankie Sloothaak, Vicki Roycroft, Ludgar Beebaum, Maria Gretzer, Wayne Rocroft and is currently in use by the New York Mounted Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride.

Riders that have the Breakaway stirrups have not regretted their decision. " I just wanted to say, I have had a pair of these for about a year or so, and I love them. Would never ride without them again - they have worked every time I've fallen off, and once saved me from being dragged seriously. Thank you for making a wonderful safety product - they are great to use and I will never go back to normal stirrup irons ever again as I would not feel safe without my Smart Rider stirrups :) Jodi"

Another Smart Rider user wrote: "I have examined every other type of safety stirrup, and not one measures up to your Smart Riders in quality. I train problem horses---quality horses that have been messed up by owners or former trainers. Each time I get on a horse without my break-aways, a worry crosses my mind. I do not need that distraction, so I intend to have Smart Riders on all my training saddles. Enough about me and my enthusiasm for the Smart Rider. I cannot say enough about your product, that is how devoted I am. Personally, I think every rider should use your break-aways. Thank you so much!, Kathryn"

Dawn continues "So many kids don't use proper safety equipment because it's not "Cool". I've also seen 4-H leaders opt out of using a helmet when in the presence of their 4-H kids. Since the majority of equestrian related injuries are youth under 25, it's important that parents, riding instructors, 4-H & Pony Club leaders lead by example by demonstrating to youth that safety is Cool - being injured isn't. My opinion is, if a product saves your life or saves you from being injured, it's definitely worth using that product. Safety should always be top priority for every rider." Being able to offer another piece of safety equipment to equestrians and by promoting safe riding is something that Saddlemart is proud to be a part of and encourages all riders to Ride Smart, Ride Safe, because Your Safety Is Worth It.

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Prairie Saddlemart Ltd has been encouraging riders to Ride Smart, Ride Safe for many years and is always on the lookout for innovative new safety products that will contribute to safer riding practices for all riders. Demo videos of the Smart Rider Breakaway Stirrups are available for viewing on our website at [www.saddlemart.net](http://www.saddlemart.net)