

Shoeing the Base Narrow Draft Horse

by Michael J. Wildenstein CJE, FWCF (Hons)

The hoof capsule will adapt to persistent deformations and gradually change shape toward any repetitive load (Figure 1). It is therefore very important to define the conformation of each individual equine limb and adapt the hoof care accordingly. The goal is to allow the horse to do the best of its ability with the conformation that it has. A secondary goal is to improve the horse's situation through the care and attention to detail that we invest in the animals' welfare. These horses are plagued by interference; one hoof makes contact with the contra lateral limb during movement. Pathologies and lameness prompted by the uneven weight bearing can be alleviated by the proper hoof care.

A draft horse in a base narrow standing position will have a hoof that is more upright on the outside and



Figure 1. Base narrow position of hind limbs. Lungwitz A Textbook of Horseshoeing, pg 68.

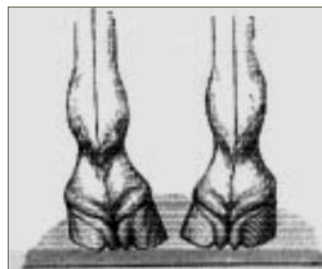


Figure 2. Schwyter, Swiss Farriers Manual 1906.

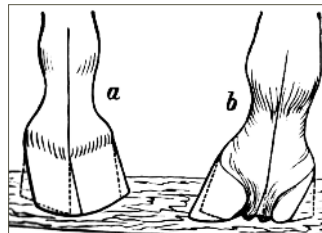


Figure 3. Dollar and Wheatly, A Handbook of Horseshoeing 1897

more slant on the inside (Figures 2 & 3). Take for example, a perpendicular line through the hoof. In other words, take the circumference of the hoof at the top of the coronary band and mark the center. Then take the bearing surface at the bottom of the hoof and mark the center also and the result will be that the perpendicular line from the center of the hoof at the top will not fall in the center at the bottom. In other words, the two circumferences are not centered and this

difference has to be made up with the shoe. Therefore, this shoe with the wide web on the narrow side of the hoof and the narrow web on the wide side of the hoof will equalize this. The creasing of the shoe on the wide web should be far to the inside the center, at least so that the shoe extends beyond the wall. Shoeing this kind of horse in this way you will find that the horse is balanced and the shoe will be worn evenly. (Henry Asmus) 1935.

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Figures 4 & 5. Kerckhaert Draft Series 32x12 clipped shoes.



any sudden change in that positioning will cause problems in the horse's general balance and coordination. That is because even a slight difference in the resting length of muscles and in the positioning of all the locomotive structures at ground impact and take off will change the sensory input and therefore change the accuracy of the normal automatic controls of balance, speed, and muscle patterning. (2)

As a four year old horse getting his first shoes, he was a champ. The transition period lasted a few weeks as

This is a heavy horse (1900 lbs) and he is employed in rough terrain so I used Kerckhaert draft series 32x12 clipped shoes. The increased dimension of the shoe will not bend or flex under harsher environments. The added material also allowed me to extend the crease on the outside branch, to increase width and to punch the holes for the drive in studs. By punching the stud holes, I have flexibility in the position and have a tapered holes that is the same as the taper of the stud. I drew out the inside heel to decrease width of web. An alternative would be to grind or hot rasp material away. Because the hoof wall was so straight on the outside, there is shoe extending beyond the perimeter of the hoof. The extension is left, though the outside corner of the solar surface of the shoe was rounded off or blended to the hoof. Any modifications that are made to the shoes are done conservatively and over a period of time. The traction device was minimal and the lateral extension was not great.

Trimming and shoeing as well as changes in normal use, can change the shape of the hoof capsule. Once the nervous system has learned to balance on a particular hoof shape and size, then

he found the new balance. No side to side interference, though traveling close behind. He was forging, (toe of the hind hoof hitting the bottom of the front hoof) on every step for a while. At six weeks, with good hoof growth he was reset. The balance was improved and the forging eliminated. Any change takes time and I feel good if there are positive results with every shoeing period. It takes nine to twelve months for the hoof to replace itself and it often takes that long to get the desired results. The first positive change in the hoof is at the hairline. As the balance was changed an increase in outside wall thickness is identified at the hairline. The hoof care is consistent and regular and the hoof shape changed and is changing. Because of this horse's conformation, if the shoes are removed he will (again) wear the outside and flare the inside. I can not fix the condition, though I can maintain it.

For the Warmblood horse or smaller horses with some mass that are base narrow I use the Kerckhaert DF Grand Prix that has an increased width of lateral web manufacturing



Figures 6 & 7. DF Grand Prix (top) and modified Standard (bottom).

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Figure 8.

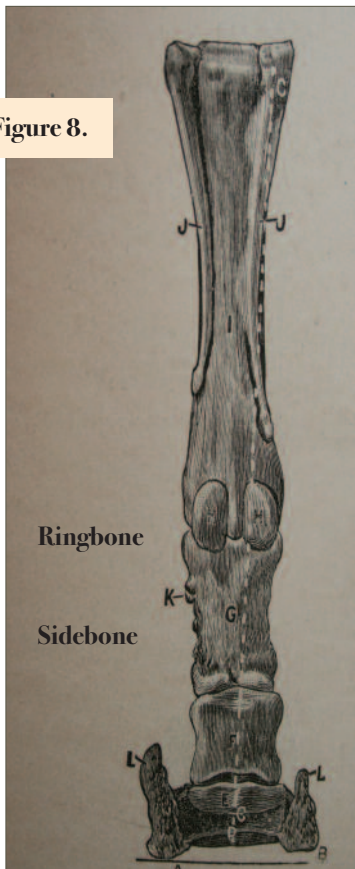


Figure 9. Interference injury.

into the shoe (Figure 6). For the lighter horses I will modify a Kerckhaert Standard Shoe (Figure 7) by increasing the lateral width of web.

The injuries shown in figures 8 & 9 resulting from conformational deviations can be helped with appropriate hoof care. The issues resulting from conformational deviations are as varied as the severity of the deviations, the weight of the horse, the speed in which the horse travels, the environment and the management. The type of modification of shoes described here is for a work horse traveling at three to four miles per hour pulling a load. Taking into consideration all of the factors is important for a positive outcome; that is the art of being a hoof care provider. Be conservative, treat often and above all create no harm. ■

REFERENCES

(1. pg.38, hoof capsule) (2. pg.40,) (Changing the Hoof Shape)
 “Functional Anatomy of the Equine Digit: Determining Function from Structure.” Helen M.S Davies, Christopher J Philip, Jonathan S Merritt. Equine Podiatry, 2007, Saunders.



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FARRIERS LEAD THE CHARGE AGAINST CHRONIC HOOF DISEASE

BY RAY TRICCA

HAVING A GAME PLAN

The first line of defense against hoof disease is usually the farrier. While horse owners may want you to quickly eliminate a suspected hoof infection in one treatment (as part of the routine trimming and shoeing), it will be important to provide sound advice in the form of a game plan.

The reality is, deeply rooted infections like white line disease and chronic thrush are nearly impossible to kill with one application of a strong topical agent.

Bacteria and fungi are very adept at hiding among healthy hoof tissue through millions of years of evolution. One application of a strong chemical agent will not stop them. Unless you can get to the infection early enough, repeated use of these strong chemical agents can be counter productive. Caustic chemicals can be deadly to bacteria and fungi, but their continued use is usually harmful to the surrounding healthy hoof tissue and will slow the healing process.

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AND THE NEW
THRUSH STOP BLUE
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HOOF CARE AIDS.



A GAME PLAN THAT WORKS

Step 1. Once a hoof disease is diagnosed, the farrier should get the horse owner to share in the responsibility for the follow-up treatment.

Step 2.

Removing diseased tissue and trimming the frog are important steps to be done by the farrier. This opens up the hooves to oxygen which gives them a head start to the healing process. Improperly trimmed hooves prevent oxygen from getting in crevices.

Feet that are not well maintained or balanced can be a contributing factor to the onset of hoof diseases such as thrush or white line.

Step 3. The horse owner should insure that the feet are cleaned regularly by washing and to keep the affected areas open for oxygen by picking and brushing. The farrier should also recommend the horse owner's use of topical products with a proven track record against hoof disease such as SBS Thrush Stop and Sav-A-Hoof products, which have been proven safe and effective for over 25 years.

The SBS Researchers developed formulas that stop bacteria and fungi without harming sensitive surrounding tissue. The formulas are not caustic and can be used as often as necessary to keep infection under control and gives healthy hoof tissue a chance to grow and prosper.

Even if you don't kill all the organisms initially, repeated and consistent use with the right products may kill enough of them to slow the advancement of the disease to the point that it may grow out with successive trimmings.

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SBS has two unique “stain-marking” gel formulas that turn diseased hoof tissue a dark blue color. The stain shows where to add more gel as the color fades. Sav-A-Hoof Gel has been popular for years for use under shoes and pads for fighting white line disease. The time release formula can last for days. The new Thrush Stop BLUE is a stain-marking gel version of Thrush Stop that stays put deep in the sulcus of the frog without running. It also can be used under shoes and pads for prevention and early treatment. ■

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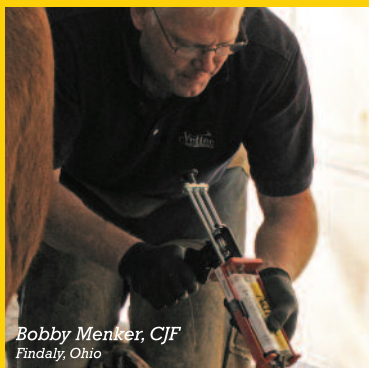
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