



CHAFFEE COUNTY EXTENSION
STATE HORSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Equine Hoofcare & Management

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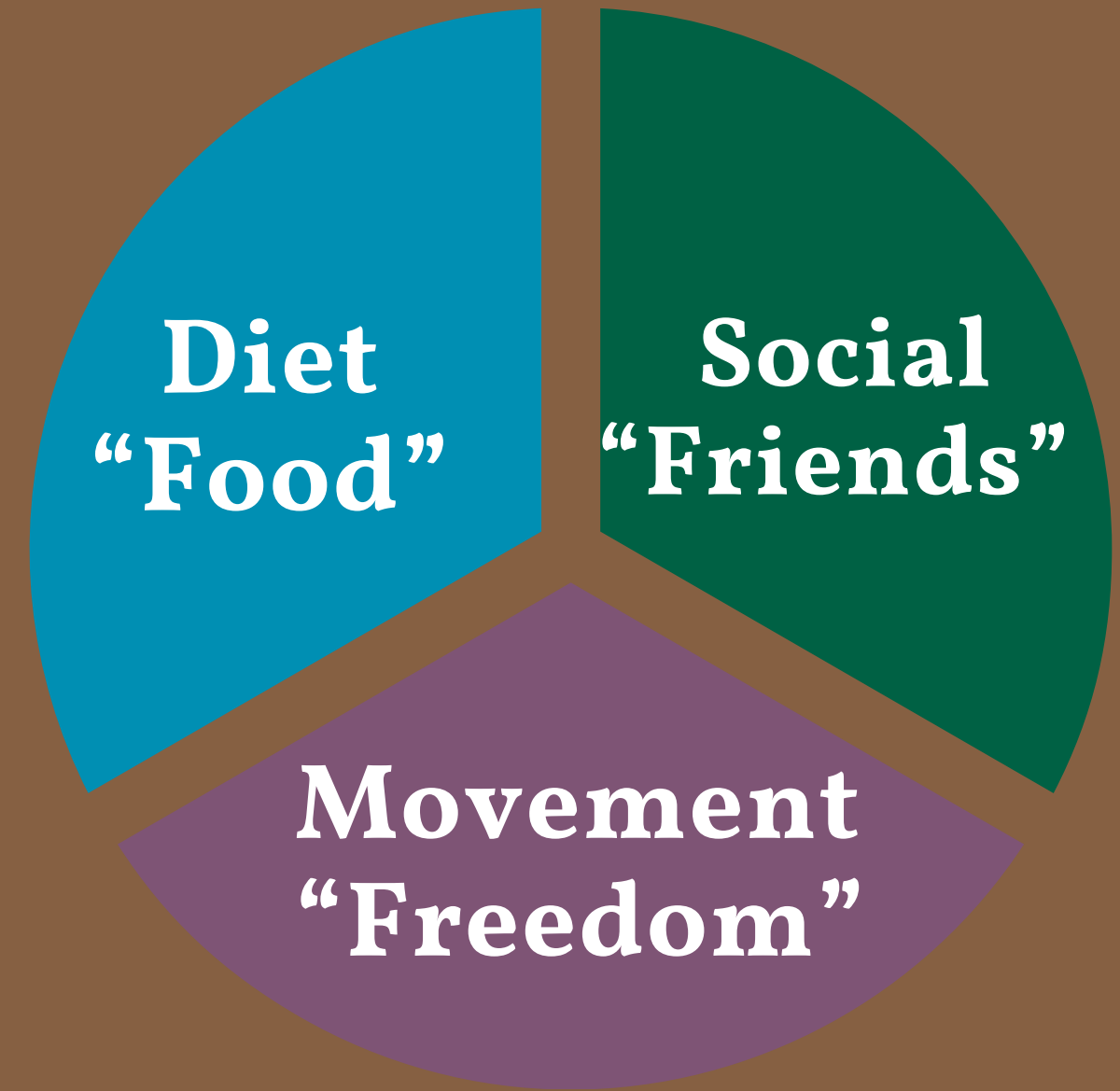
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**NO HOOF,
NO HORSE**



What are the 3 pillars of horse health?



**Hoof health comes from within, directly tied to
the 3 pillars of horse health**

Horse health = hoof health!



Healthy Horse = Fun Horses!

When a horse feels good, they are more likely to give us the behaviors we desire (correct behavior under saddle, proper ground manners, etc.)

Healthy Horse = Less Emergencies

Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! Keeping horses healthy is often cheaper than rehabbing a sick, lame, or underweight horse.

Health Horse = Good Stewardship

Caring for and managing the horse is a critical piece of the 4-H project. We want 4-H'ers to learn equine skills on the ground, in the saddle, and in the barn.



When feeding, consider the horse's:

- Age (geriatric horses require more/different feed)
- Breed
 - Typically harder keepers: Thoroughbreds, Arabians, hot-blooded types
 - Typically easier keepers: stock types, drafts, draft crosses, many pony breeds
- Size (height & weight)
- Activity level/workload
- Stage of growth (young horses or broodmares require different feed programs)
- Other medical history (history of choke? teeth issues? Insulin resistance?)





Forage First!

- The horse is meant to graze up to 18 hours a day.
- Lots of little meals is better than one or two large meals.
- Having roughage available for most of the day can reduce the risk of issues such as:
 - Colic
 - Gastric ulcers
 - Loss of condition
 - Boredom
- Forage **SHOULD** have:
 - A high leaf-to-stem ratio
 - Fine/small stems
 - Fresh smell & appearance
 - Good color
- Forage should **NEVER** have:
 - Mold
 - Moisture
 - Weeds
 - Signs of pests (insects, possum poop, etc.)

Remember, tossing out a bale or two of bad hay is cheaper than a vet bill!





Supplement if Needed

- Many horses do very well on grass hay alone or a grass/alfalfa hay mix. Keep in mind alfalfa is a richer hay than grass, higher in protein.
- If a horse has a medical history (TMJ issues, dental issues, choke history, etc.), additional feeds may be necessary:
 - Soaked hay pellets/cubes
 - Complete feeds
 - Cereal grains (corn, oats, barley, etc.)
- Supplements
 - Ration balancers
 - Gastric support
 - Hormone support
 - Joint support
- Added calories
 - Rice bran
 - Oils



Remember to read feed tags & consult your vet!

6 TYPES OF NUTRIENTS

1 Water
Clean, 10-15 gallons/day
& heated in winter

2 Fiber/Carbs
Main source of fuel.
Bulk of diet.

3 Fats
Source of energy. Very
easily digestible.

4 Proteins
Tissue, hoof, coat, etc.
Measured by Crude
Protein (CP)

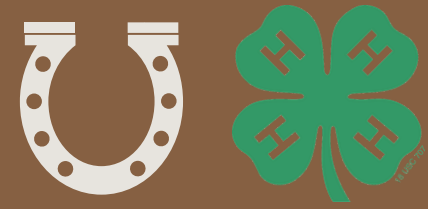
5 Vitamins
Fat or water soluble
Good quality forage
should have vitamins

6 Minerals
Macro & micro
Block or loose format



Pillar 2

MOVEMENT / FREEDOM



Moving Horses = Healthy Horses

- Movement is an essential part of a healthy horse. Horses in wild environments, such as the American Mustang or Australian Brumby, often travel 15 miles a day in search of water, food, shelter, and minerals.
- Digestive track is *designed* for movement!
- Domesticated horses do not move nearly as much as their bodies are meant to.
- How can we incorporate more movement into our horse's daily lives?



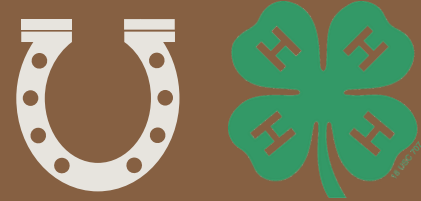
Movement & Hoof Health

- Just like the digestive system, the hoof is designed for movement
- Many horses benefit from going barefoot for at least a portion of the year. Living in the Rockies, most working horses require some type of hoof protection (traditional shoes, boots, glue-on shoes, etc.)
- Hoof mechanism - the expansion and contraction of the hoof as the limb bears weight and relaxes
- Consult with your vet and farrier to design a hoof care plan that works for you and your herd.



Pillar 3

SOCIAL / FRIENDS



Herd Life = Happy Life

Horses are designed to be herd creatures. They take comfort in being around other equine. A horse that is alone is often stressed & depressed.

Natural Behavior = Healthy Horse

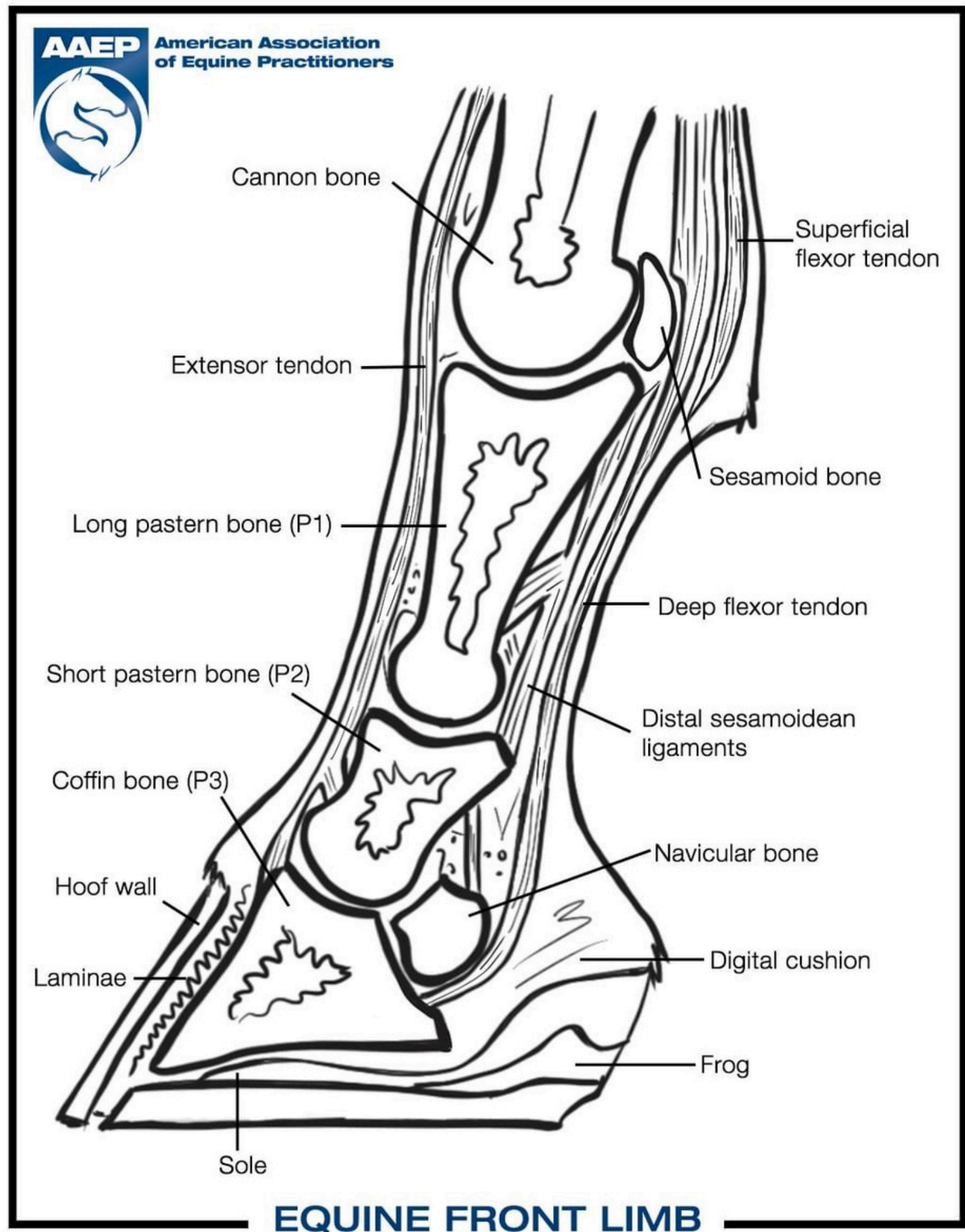
In a herd setting, horses can express their natural equine behaviors such as mutual grooming, play, napping, etc.

Consistency is key

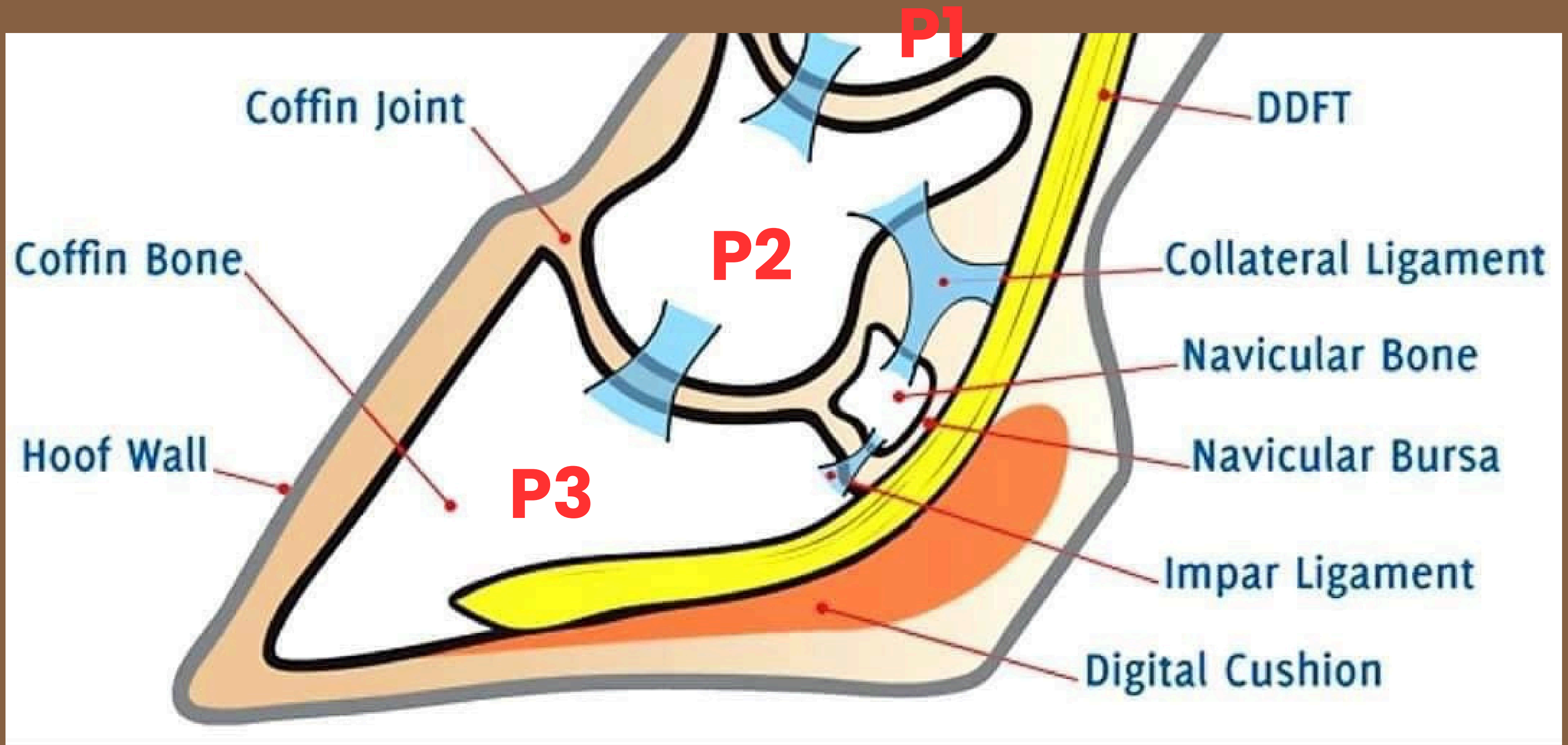
Find what works for you and your horse. Give it a try for a few weeks/months and modify as needed.



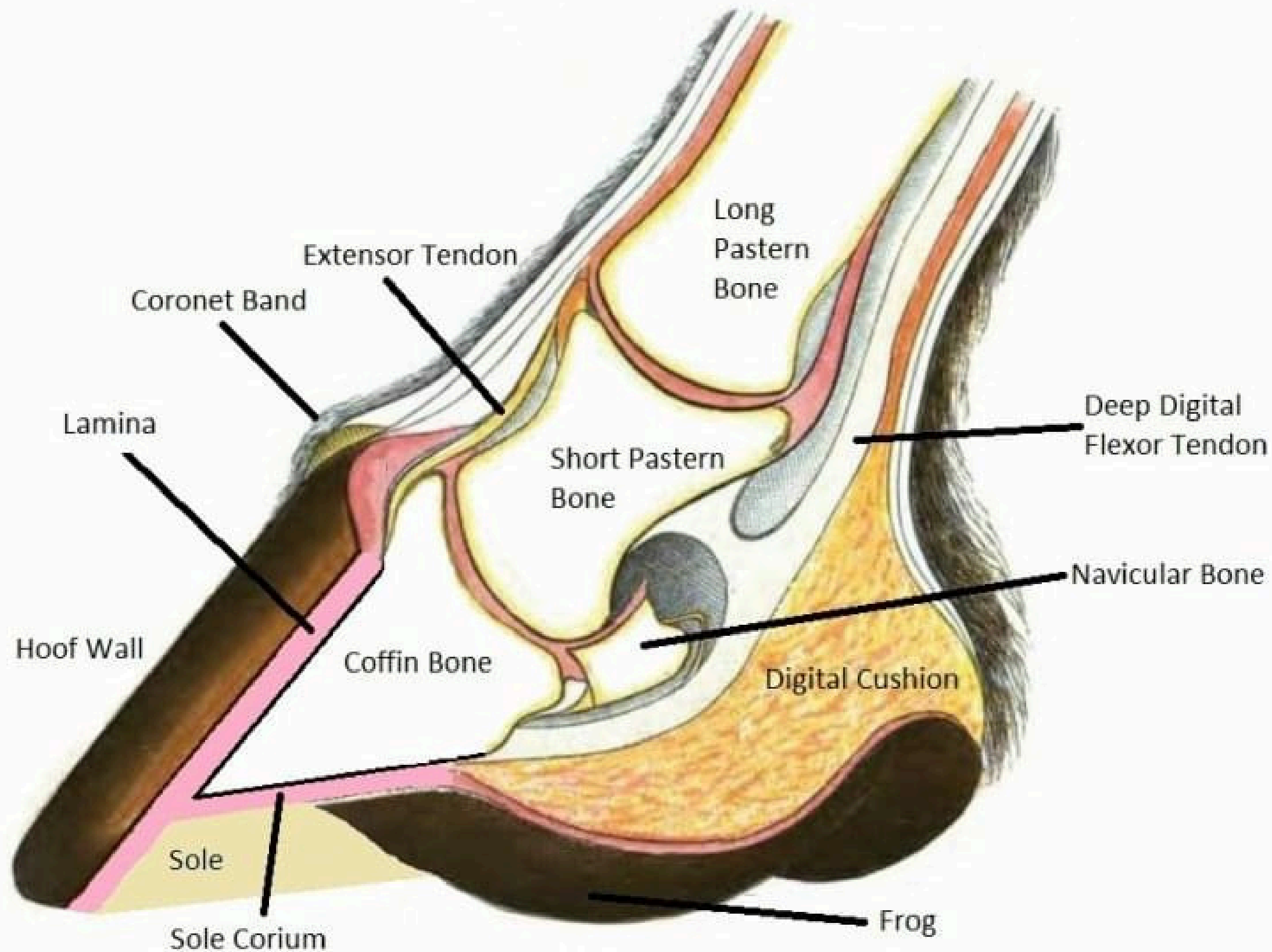
Lower Limb Anatomy



Basic Hoof Internal Anatomy



Basic Hoof & Lower Limb Anatomy



Basic Hoof & Lower Limb Anatomy



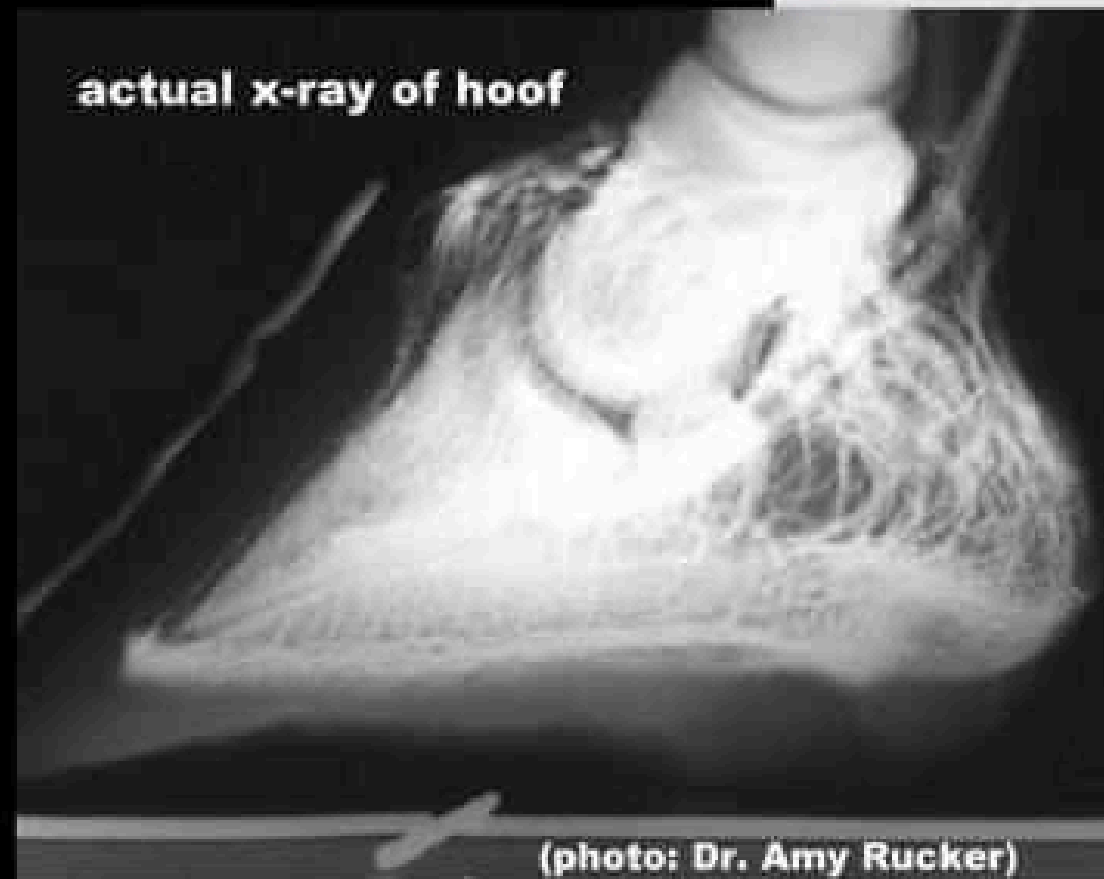
Basic Hoof & Lower Limb Anatomy

Thermal imaging -
The coronary band.



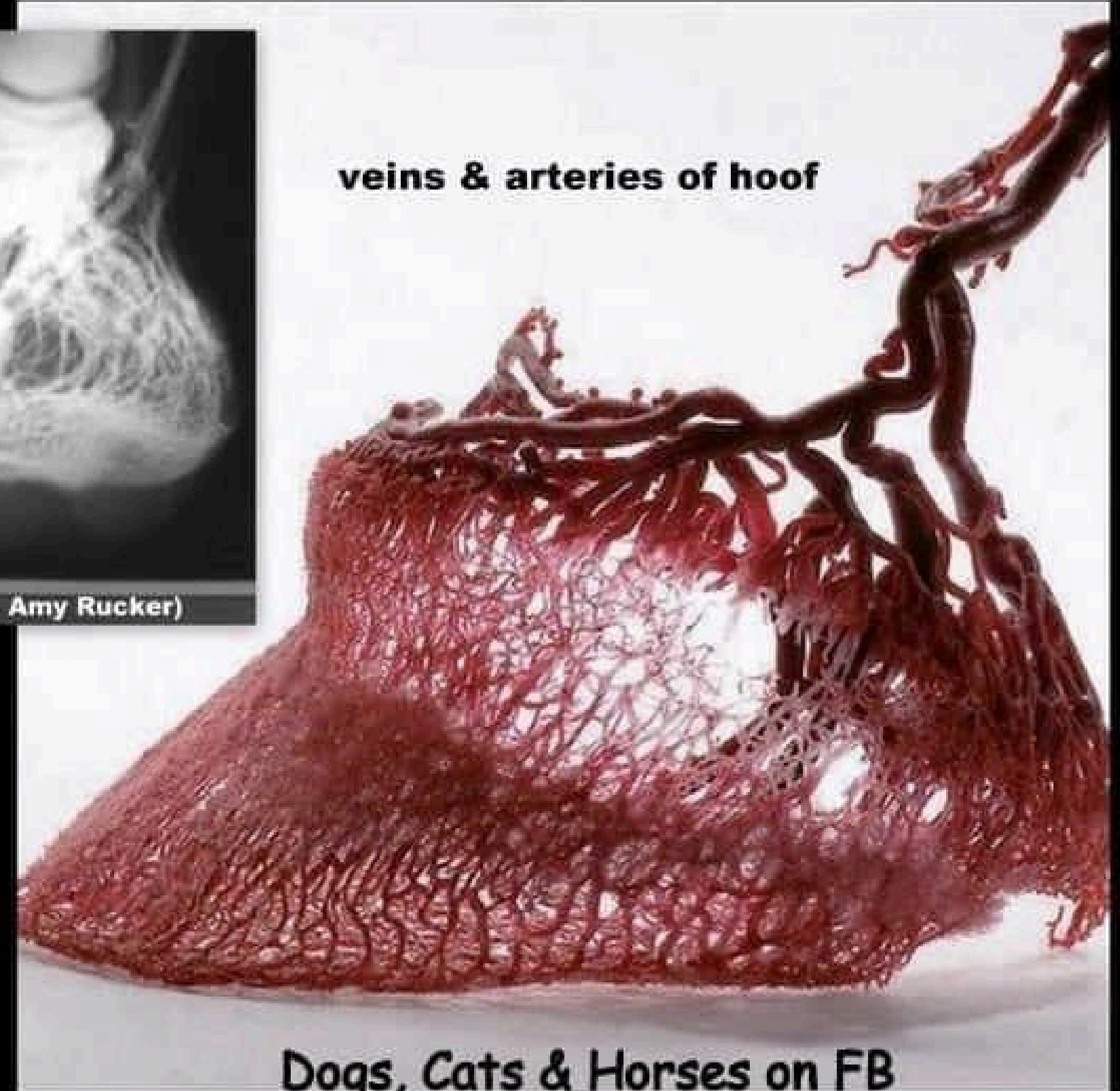
The study of the equine hoof

actual x-ray of hoof

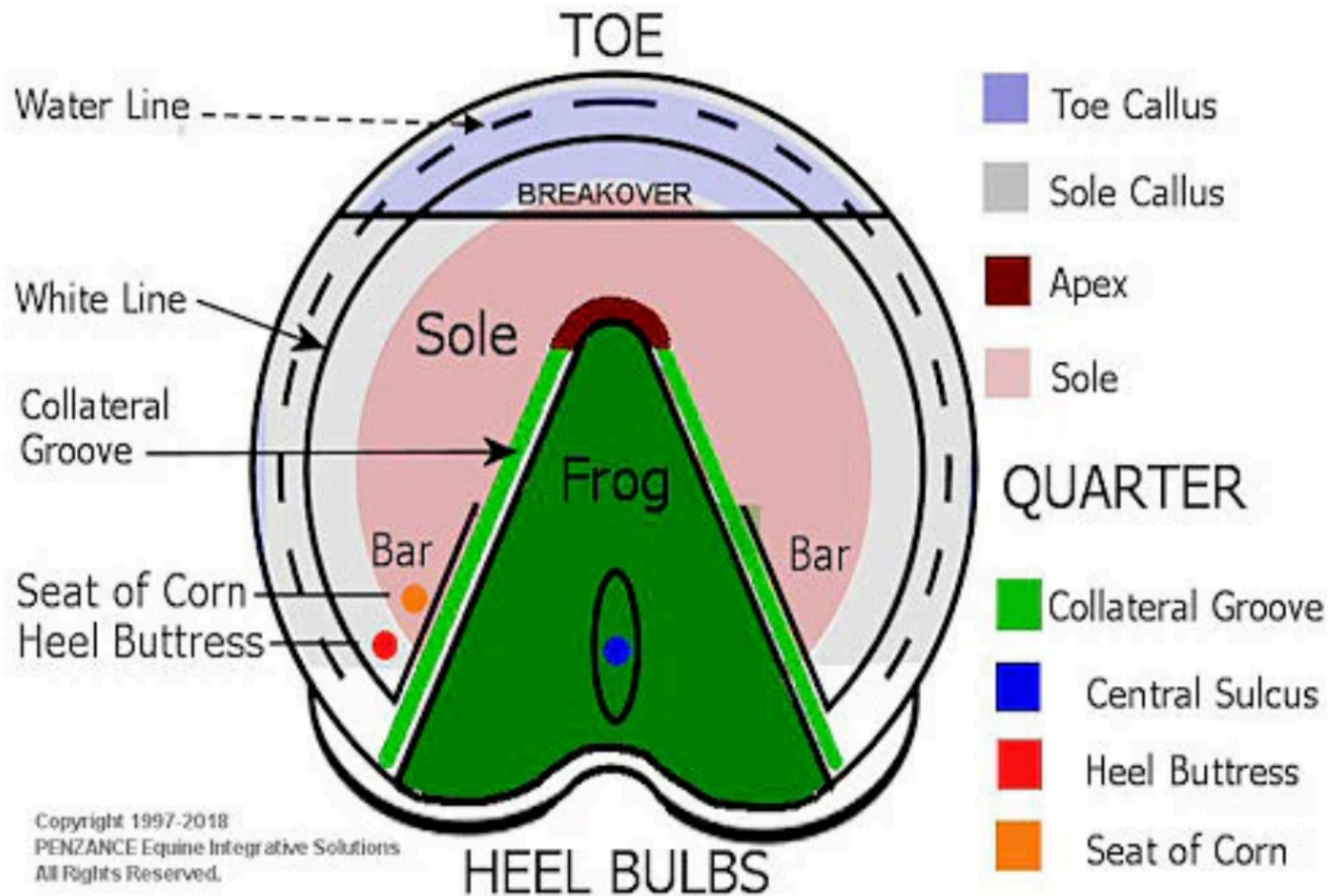


**Vascular
Hoof of a
Horse**

veins & arteries of hoof



Solar View of Horse Hoof



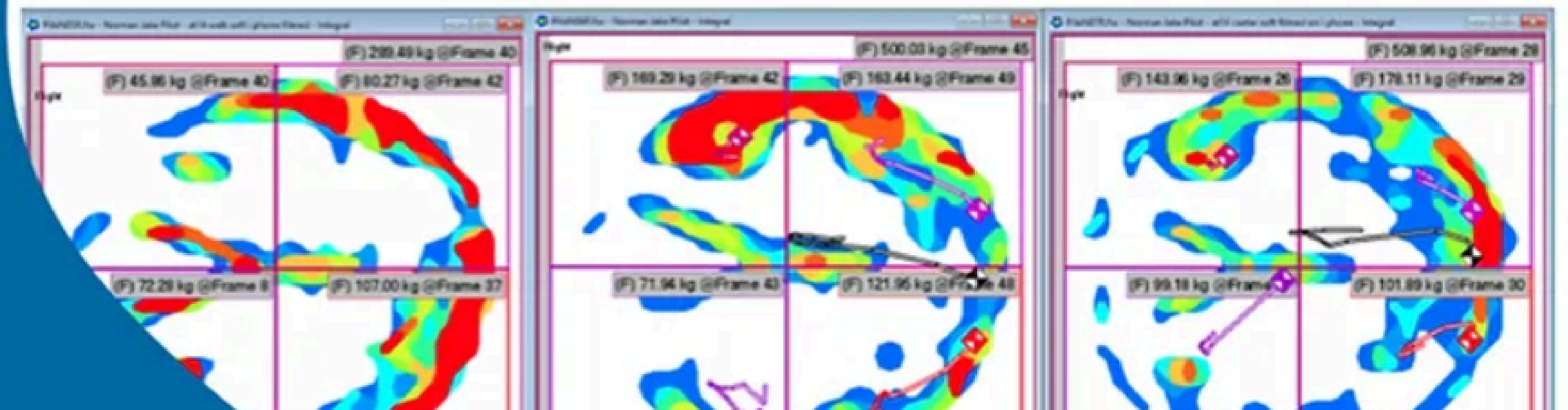
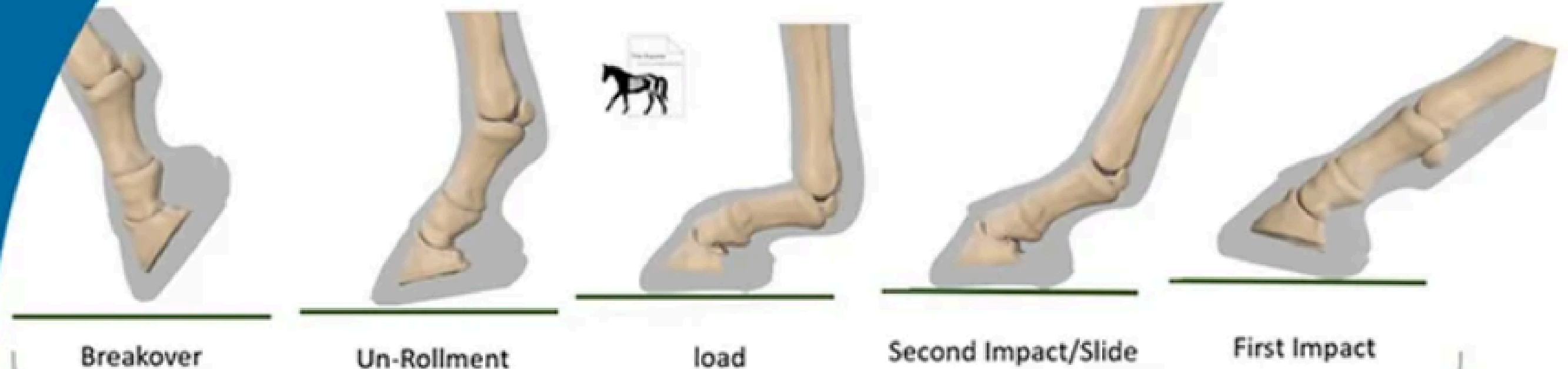
Hoof Mechanism & Breakover

Hoof
Balance

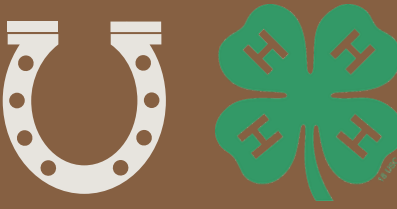
—
Where
and
When?



Stance Phases



Types of Hoof Protection



“Standard” Shoes

Standard “keg” metal shoes are the most common. Held onto hoof wall with nails. Can be set hot or cold. Can have toe or quarter clips and other minor adjustments.



Boots

Slip on boots for temporary or therapeutic needs. Horses do not typically live in boots all the time, only used during work.



Glue-on Shoes

Applied with super glue or other adhesives. Very customizable, hard to use in wet environments.

Therapeutic/Corrective Shoeing



Bar Shoes

Bar shoes can offer support to the back of the foot. Come in many shapes and sizes, often have to be forged on site to fit the particular horse & issue.



Wedges

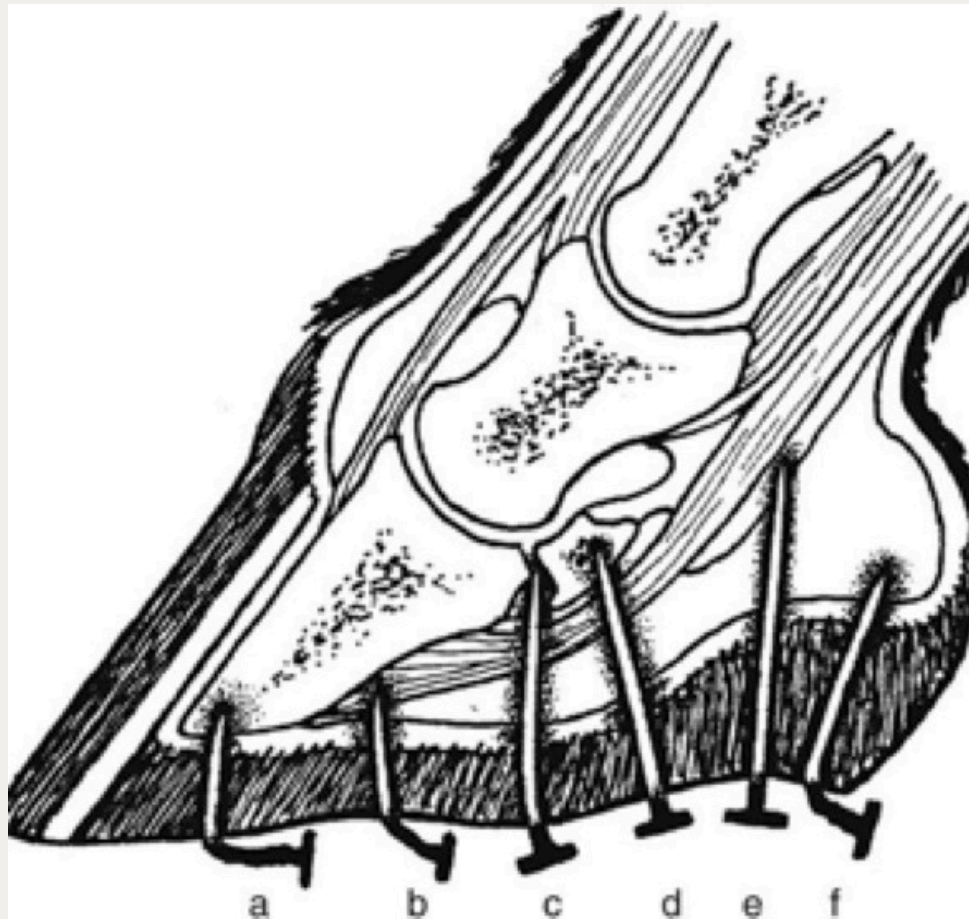
Wedges of various heights can be used to impact the horse's hoof alignment and angles. Can be an addition to the shoe, or wedged shoes can be purchased.



Pads

Plastic, rubber, or leather pads can be used to protect the sole, hold medicated packs, or prevent snow buildup in winter.

Common Injuries/Illnesses



Foreign Objects

Never remove an object without first speaking with your vet! Important to keep item stabilized until it is known where and how deep.



Thrush

Infection of the hoof, black/white crumbly, smelly substance common in central sulcus, bars, and collateral grooves. Topical treatment.

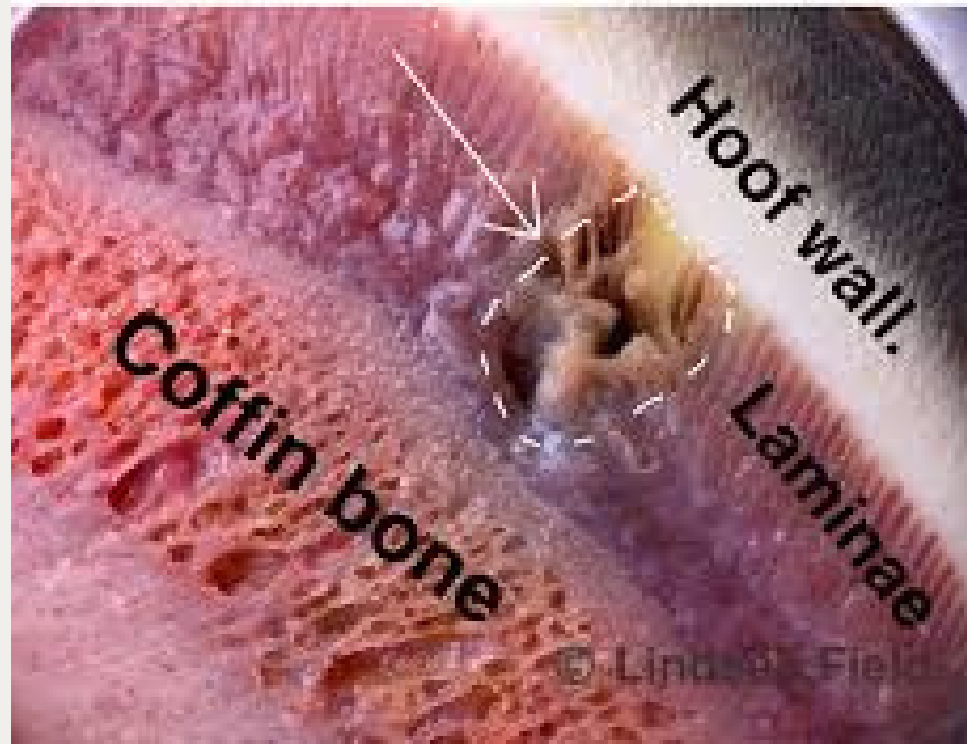


Cracks

Can be caused by trauma, diet, and footing. May require stabilization through shoeing. Protect the crack as it grows out. Can take months to grow out.

Common Injuries/Illnesses

Close up of a “hot nail”



Hot Nail

When a horse is shod with a nail in the laminae and not the hoof wall. Removal of hot nail and treatment is necessary.



White Line Disease

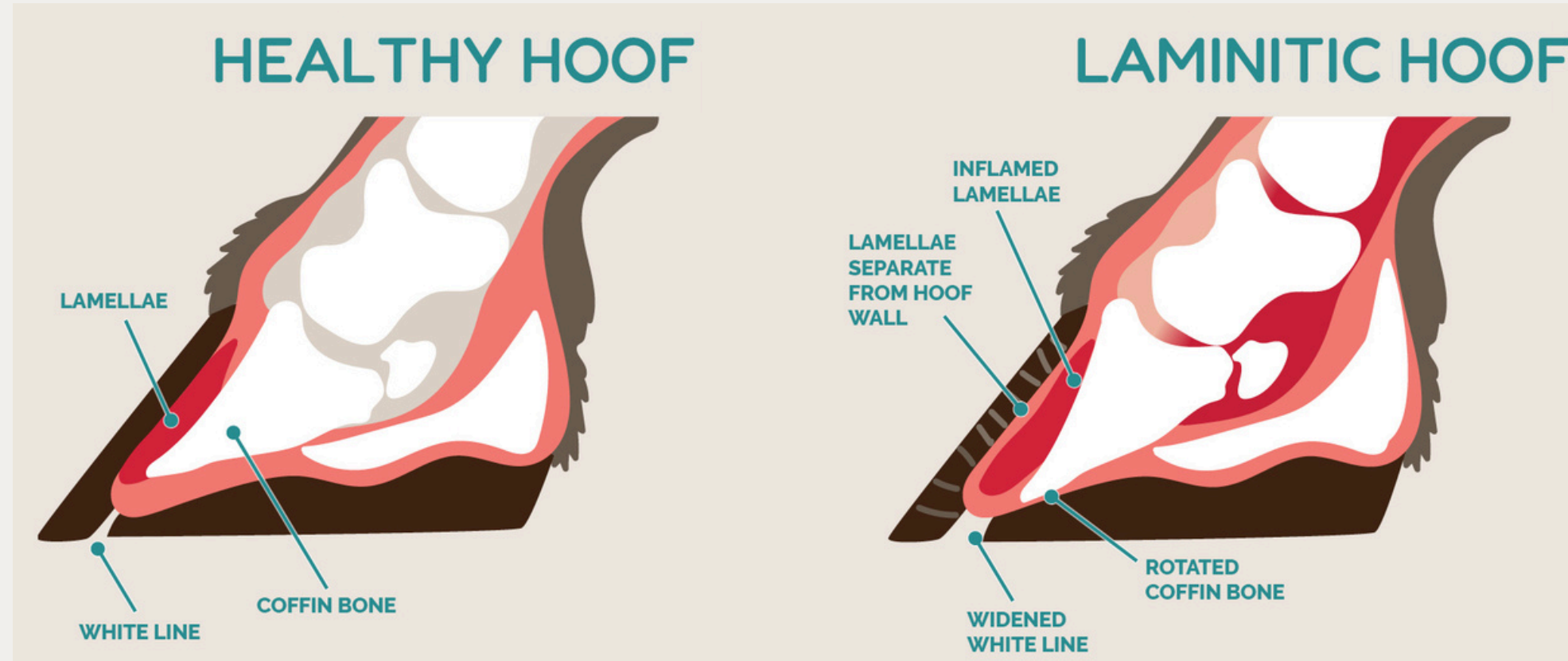
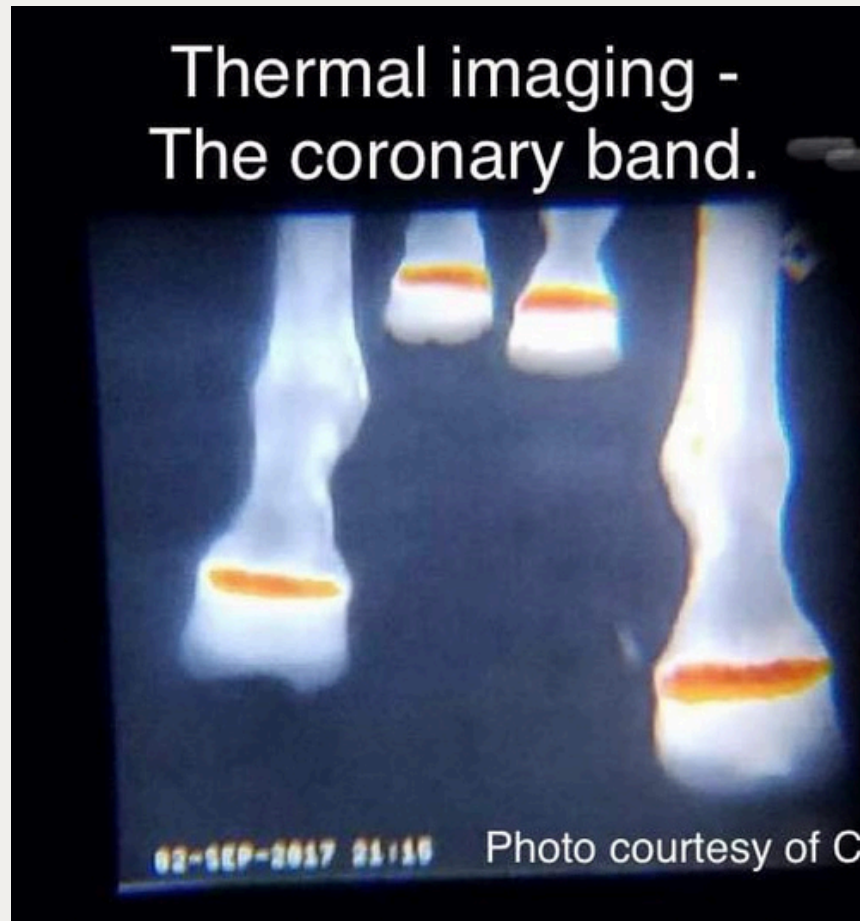
Also known as “seedy toe” usually fungal infection between the layers of the hoof. Resection may be needed if severe.



Abscesses

A pocket of pus that builds up pressure and eventually pops. Can cause acute, extreme lameness. Treat with soaking, wrapping, patience.

Laminitis & Founder



Laminitis

A swelling of the sensitive laminae in the hoof wall. A laminitic episode can be brought on by stress, change in diet, trauma, etc. Overweight horses are more prone to laminitis. Critical to get the swelling down and remove starch/sugar from diet.

Founder

Advanced laminitic condition when P3 begins to separate from the hoof wall, rotate, and sink. Extreme pain, requires immediate attention. Can be rehabbed but takes months and sometimes years. Remember, prevention is easier than curing!

Arthritis, Ringbone, & Navicular



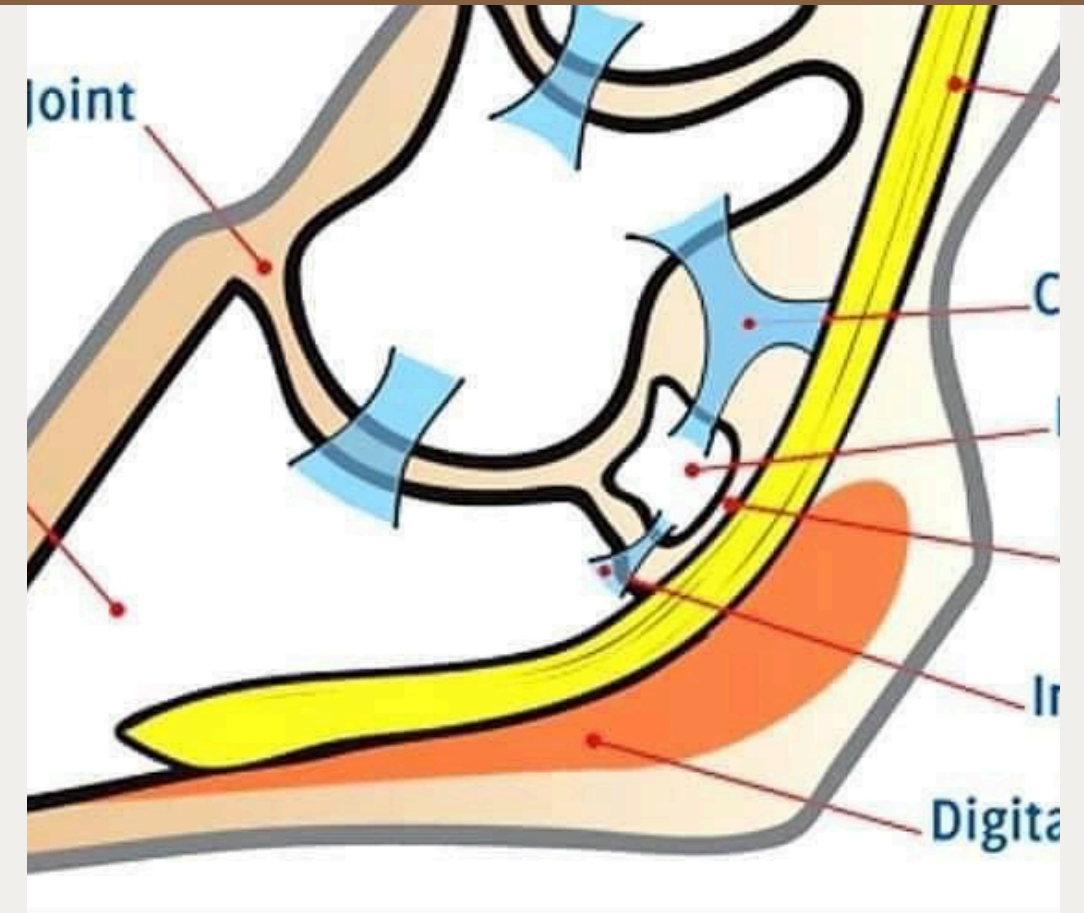
Ringbone/Sidebone

Excessive bone growth in inappropriate places. Can lead to extreme lameness, or can be fine. Must manage well as horses age.



Arthritis

Degeneration of the cartilage between the bones. Pain medication, joint injections, etc. Must be managed well as horse ages.



Navicular Disease

“Navicular” simply means pain at the back of the foot, around the navicular bone. Can be tricky to diagnose root cause.

WORKING WITH FARRIERS

1 Environment

Have a safe, flat, shady spot for your farrier to work.

2 Flies

Most farriers prefer fly spray that is water based, not oil based.

3 Payment

Payment is typically due at the time of service.

4 Training

It's the owner's job to teach the horse manners not the farrier's!

5 Tidy

Brush dirt off legs, pick hooves, etc.

Scheduling &

6 Timing

Consistent schedules are easier for them and your horse.



Helpful Tools to Have on Hand



Rasp



Hoof Knife



Hoof Pick



Nippers

Hoof Care First Aid Kit



Thrush Buster



Gorilla Tape



Diapers



Epsom Salts



Iodine



Vet Wrap



Gloves



Fly Spray

Equine Health is a Team Effort!



VETERINARIANS

Always refer to your vet team if you have specific questions about your horse.



FARRIERS

Hoof health is their full time job!



4-H LEADERS

Your horse 4-H leaders and volunteers are excellent resources!

A herd of horses is running across a vast, grassy field. In the background, there are snow-capped mountains and a body of water. The sky is filled with clouds. The overall scene is a beautiful, natural landscape.

*Questions? Comments?
How can I help?*

Contact

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