



Equine Soundness

Volume 1, Issue 6

June 2008

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Hoof Care Education for the 21st Century

This time I like to elaborate a little on our programs at Equine Soundness Inc. Basically we offer two tracks of study:

- 1.) Horse owner
- 2.) Professional Hoof Care Provider

Unfortunately there are not all that many qualified hoof care providers available and often the horse owner has no recourse but to hire a farrier to perform a barefoot trim. While I am sure that there are some farriers out there that do a very credible job, most farriers perform a "pasture trim", which is not the same as a barefoot trim. As the term describes, a pasture trim is a trim a horse can get away with if he only stands in a pasture. The rules for trimming change when the horse is to be ridden or driven.



When no qualified barefoot trimmer is available, horse owners can enroll in our course modules # 1 and # 2 and learn the theory behind a barefoot trim. Then they get together with one of our instructors and practice to reproduce a balanced trim. This kind of instruction allows the horse owner to first become very familiar with the intricate anatomy, the hoof form and function. The theory also explores lifestyle options, nutrition and gives an introduction

to various supportive modalities like acupressure, acupuncture, massage etc. The practical part of instruction is 5 half days, but can always be expanded, should the need arise. We are very flexible in our instruction modules.

For those who think they want to become a professional hoof care provider, we offer an intensive study course that involves a comprehensive theory part including everything the horse owner studied, but adding courses in pathology, trimming modifications of the same, business considerations and in depth horseman-

ship. The students have to complete homework and assignments, provide a comprehensive case study, attend at least 10 full trimming days and get approval of their instructor(s) to attend a final 5 day practicum where all the lectures are solidified into a detailed picture. The students are monitored in their progress and only admitted to the final exam when their instructors feel that they have the expertise to pass not only the challenging certification exam, but become solid barefoot hoof care providers in the field.



Sounds like a lot? Yes it is. There is a lot to learn, a lot to experience and not everything can be taught in the class room. But we have tried very hard to make this complex material as transparent as possible to ensure the most positive outcome. One of our students, Ingrid Dohler from Minnesota wrote: " I am learning and learning and learning. My head starts to spin. LOL. Your material is fabulous! Thank you for introducing me."

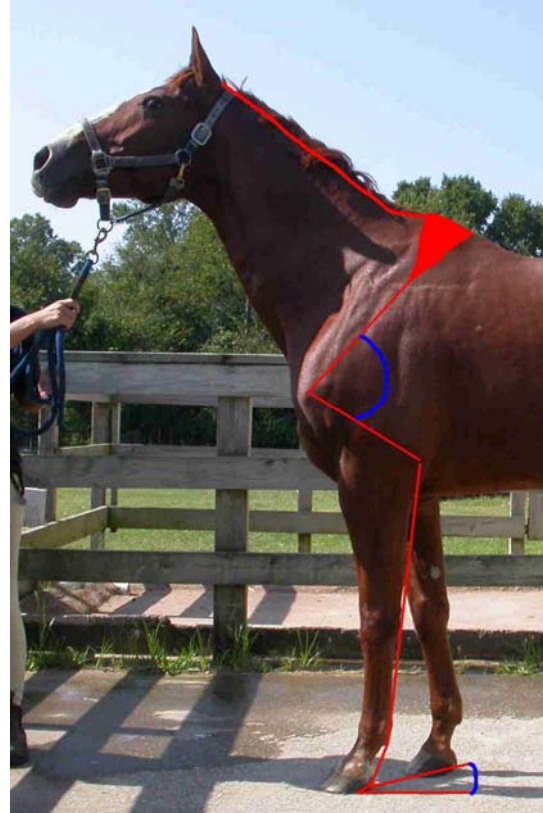
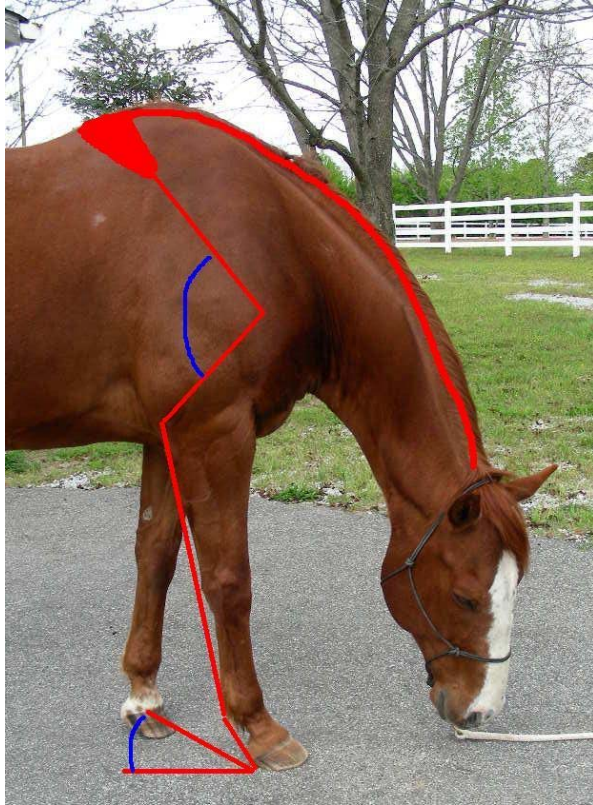
For those who like to see the quality of our programs without committing to a full lecture, we have an introductory "Virtual Seminar":

Introduction to Barefoot Hoof Care

This presentation is comprised of 193 slides with the usual high quality pictures and drawings. It is available for only \$ 40.00. Should you later decide to purchase one of our modules, you may apply a \$ 40.00 coupon to your purchase. With other words, this introductory seminar could be yours for free.

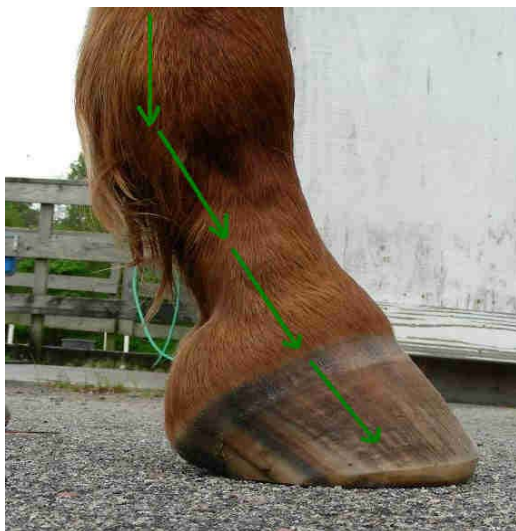
Body Posture

Most of the day is spent in nature in the grazing position, therefore head-low, with the center of gravity forward and the forehead bearing most of the weight. A horse who lives with the head down has more weight on the toe, and the toe wall is thicker (left). Shoulder-forearm and heel to ground angle is larger than in a horse who has the head up (right). A horse who lives a lot with his head up, like most horses in a stall do, has more weight on the heel, and this creates underslung heels.



Below: Forces acting on a hoof when the horse has the head down (left)

Forces acting on the hoof with the head up (right)





Check out our courses at www.equinesoundness.com

We offer hoof care instruction for horse owners, professional students, veterinarians and farriers. You can take one course at a time and pay as you go. Study all the theory at home and meet with one of our experienced instructors in your area for the practical part.

300 Saddlemount Drive
Hopkins SC 29061
Phone: 803-647-1200
E-mail:
info@equinesoundness.com

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Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends.

Hoof Care for the 21st Century

Terminology

The bars end in the middle of the frog. Why? Because the corium that produces the bars ends in the middle of the frog.

