

No more Asymmetrical Hooves.

Swedish Hoof School

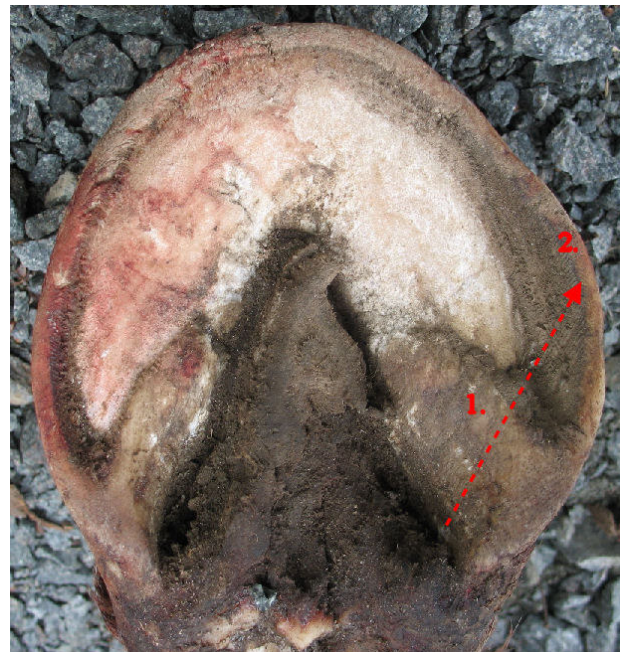
Hooves with flares or asymmetries of this kind are normally fairly easy to rehabilitate. The important thing is to realize what has caused it and what is only a symptom. Treating or hiding the symptom doesn't make the patient healthy. If we on the other hand can remove the reason for the problem the patient usually gets healthy pretty quick. In this case it easy to see what has



caused the deformity. The hoof's right side (left on the picture) look fairly okay (but if that bar doesn't get better treated soon it also will create a problem too). The left side of the hoof, on the other hand, is dramatically deformed to an unnatural and painful shape. The cause is marked with a (1), the symptom with a (2) and the angle of the force with a dotted arrow. The bar (1) has been left to grow too much and the pressure from the ground pressing on the side of the bar tilted the bar. When the bar gets tilted it presses the whole hoof outwards and

creates the flare or asymmetries (2). Bars can be tilted in any direction from straight to the side too straight forward and the flare always appears exactly in the direction of the tilted bar. Hooves do not get asymmetric if the bars are properly maintained from the start.

That all deformities like the one on the picture are troublesome for the horse is easy to see when you trim a horse with hooves like the one in the picture. If both hind hooves look the same and you just have removed the painful part on one of them he will deny you that hoof and offer you the other one instead if you try to lift it again. When both hooves are trimmed there will be no problem lifting anyone of them. Because of this I draw the conclusion that bending a hoof wall outwards feels about the same as bend one of your own nails backwards. To leave a hoof like this or to shoe it with this appearance can never be acceptable.



(It is hard to catch the bars on a picture without cutting it and cadaver hooves don't grow after trimming so I give you a picture of a toe wall instead.)



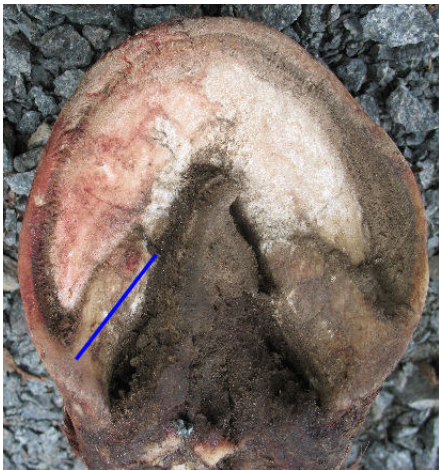
them growing back out on top off the sole. If the bars are trimmed the right way they will grow in a more natural and steeper angle just like a long toe wall that

Rehabilitation.

The main objective of the rehabilitation is to reduce the size of the bars surface projected to the ground (yellow markings on a later picture) by lowering the bars without impairing the hoof and risk a collapse. The trimming of the bars must be done in a way that minimizes the risk of

have been trimmed correctly.

My experience with rehabilitating tilted bars shows that the best way is to trim as follows:



1. Trim the whole hoof wall down to hard sole (black line on the pictures below).
2. Shorten the bars down to the dark blue line on the left picture i.e. a straight line from the height of the heels to the point where it looks like the bars end in front.

Trim the bars “supporting surface” (green arrow/short side) in 90 degree angle to the wall (side surface/red arrow) after the cyan colored line on the right picture.

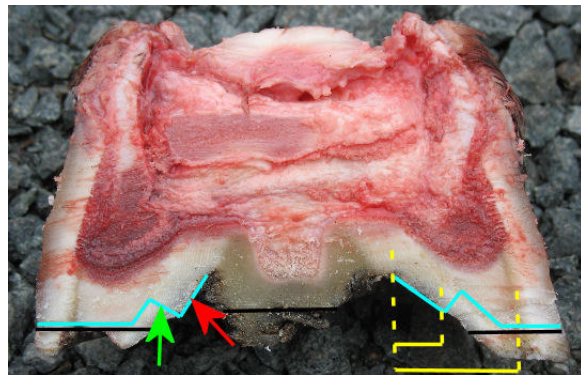
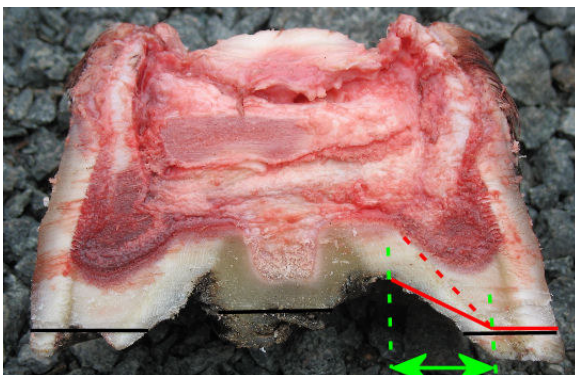
The good thing with rehabilitating bars is that since they are relatively short and still grows as fast as the hoof wall they get exchanged rather quickly. After less than three months a new and much steeper bar should have replaced the old and tilted one. Since the bar no longer presses the hoof to the side the problem with the flare or asymmetry should be gone

within about 4 months and the hoof should now be symmetrical and evenly loaded.

Completely crucial for the result is how well you success with the 90 degree angle.

Traditional bar trimming makes the bar pointed with a very thin end. Since this trimming method hardly reduces the projection surface of the bar (green marking) and also impairs the strength of the bar it doesn't give the expected effect. The tip of the bar will rapidly grow out on top of the sole again and worsen the problem instead of growing in the natural and steeper angle. When you have got the hang of it it's not even hard to do and the results are extraordinary. It doesn't even matter if the whole hoof is leaning one way it still works.

I advice you not to experiment with bar trimming on a living horse but instead practice your cutting technique on cadaver hooves that you can saw and compare with the above pictures.



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