

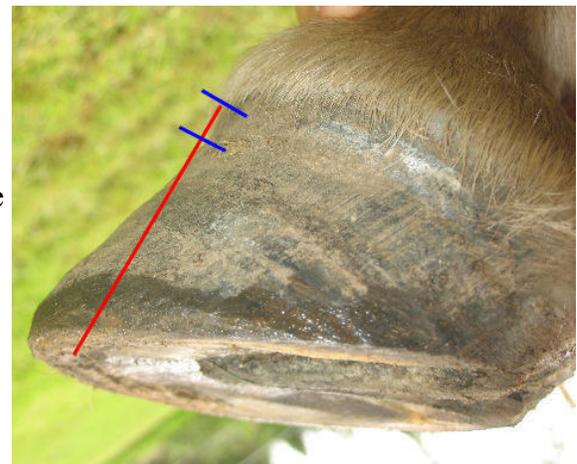
Laminitis in disguise.

Swedish Hoof School



This looks terrible and the veterinarian sentenced this Icelandic pony to death but it is really nothing special. Instead it's a regular laminitis case but instead of the white line getting stretched the sole got stretched which is fairly common. In this case however, the sole got so stretched and thin that it broke. What happened was that the horse foundered because of a disease carried by a tick. Before the attack the white line was in perfect condition, not as on most founder cases where the white line already is in bad shape before the attack. This made the white line stronger than the sole so it was the sole that stretched instead of the white line when the hoof wall broke loose. Since the hoof was in good condition and in good shape the hoof wall only got slightly deformed because of the founder attack.

As you can see on the picture to the right the new hoof wall will grow in an angle that points exactly to the crack in the sole and the problem will therefore grow away by itself.

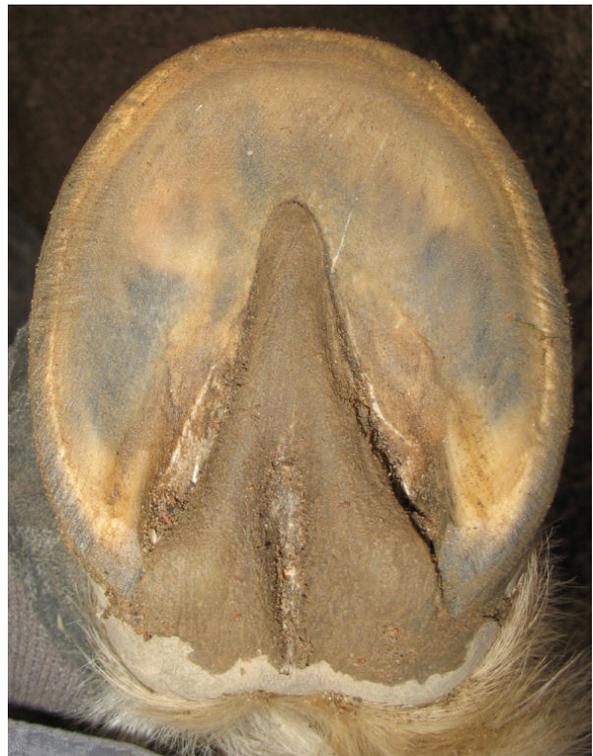


Cont.



Please observe that this is not the same hoof as above since I do not cut up healthy horses. What you can see on these pictures is that the white line is not stretched down at ground level but the sole is. In just about two weeks the hoof wall and the lamella vedge will have grown down and the stretched white line will be visible from beneath.

Here is the same hoof from the same horse after four months (right). The horse has completely sound feet now and is ridden on all footings without problems. If the horse ever will be able to grace green paddocks again is a completely different question since the founder attack can have caused an over sensitivity in the digestion system that can be hard to rehabilitate. There is an old, almost forgotten, Swedish tradition of exchanging the culture of micro organisms in the digestion system on foundered horses. There is still one slaughter house in Sweden where you can order this culture by the bottle. They take it from the appendix on horses that has been slaughter because of old age and not because of any kind of disease. Tubing this in to the system of the foundered horse does not only stop the founder attack it also seems to protect many horses from being over sensitive the next season.



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