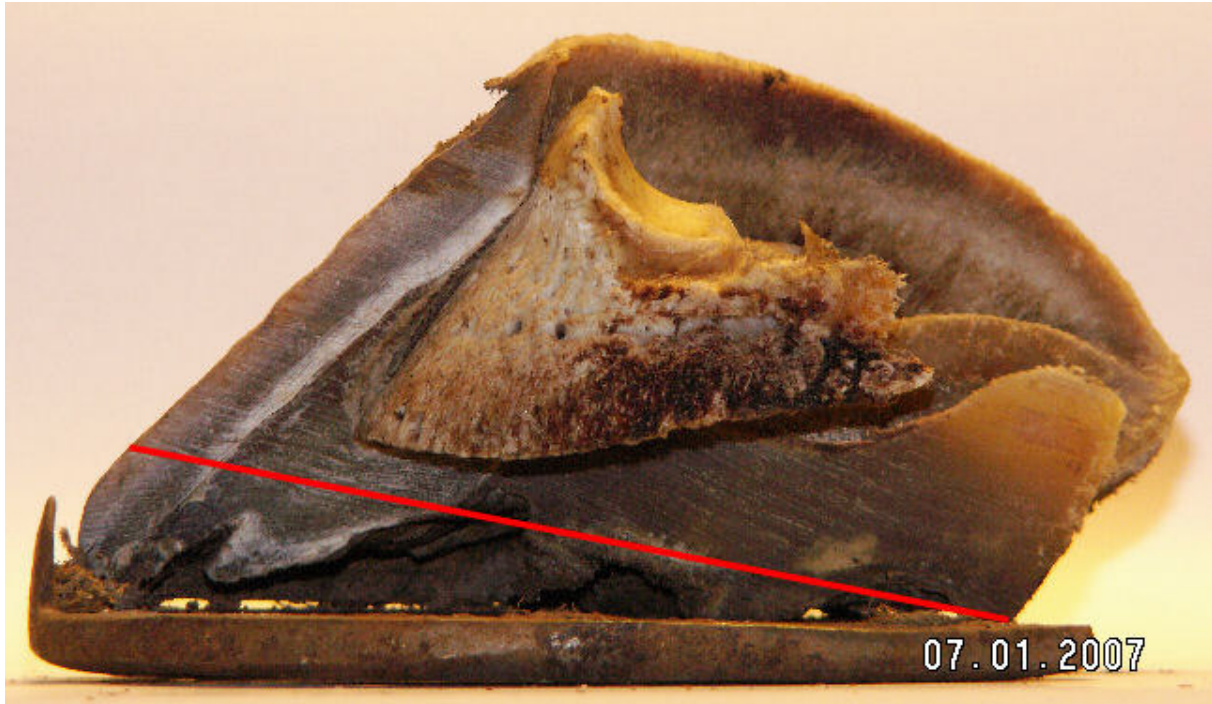


# Risk with old fashion trimming.

*Swedish Hoof School*

Many farriers try to obtain a short toe and a relatively high heel. They do this by over trimming the sole in the toe region and after a while they obtain a hoof form after the red line.

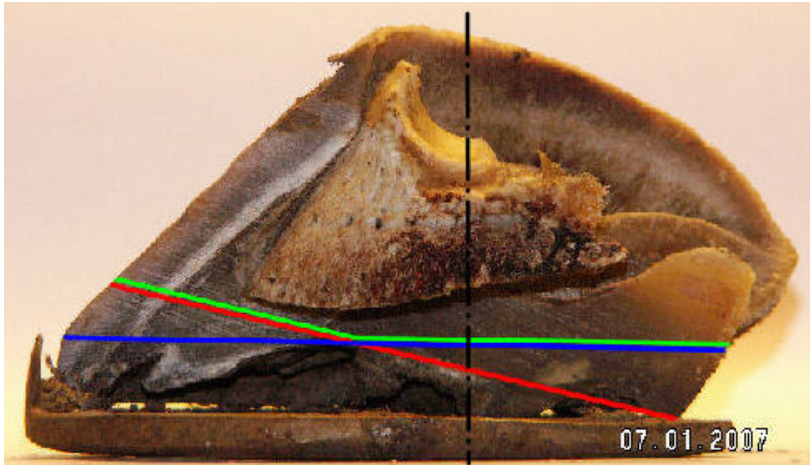


The result, which to some people might look good, looks like on the picture below.



The fact that the horse gets sore after trimming and shoeing is something that mysteriously is commonly accepted and no one really cares. The reason to why the horse gets sore is most likely a combination of a thin sole and the fact that the high heel has tilted the coffin bone forward. The traditional treatment for this is a plastic sole under an iron shoe to protect the tip of the coffin bone. This doesn't make the horse sound but only hides the symptom.

To hide a symptom of illness to be able to use a sick animal can never be accepted as good care. All resources must



be used to help the horse grow back the healthy hoof destroyed by the faulty trimming instead of hiding the problem with artificial mountings that decrease the blood flow.

My way of trying to help the horse is to trim after the blue line to create a surface for the horse to stand on in the back part of the hoof and at the same time release the pressure from the toe region. As soon as it has been possible to make this surface large enough (i.e. almost to the tip of the frog) for the anatomical centre of gravity to be fairly centred on this surface it usually

works well.

The result of such a trim is shown on this next picture. Of course this has not made the sole thicker and not removed the pain the horse feels when loading the toe region but there is less pressure on this part now without obstructing the hoof mechanism that will create blood circulation and stimulate regrowth. With hoof boots the horse has a chance to move fairly okay.



When the new hoof wall grows down parallel to the coffin bone the sole will be able to recreate the natural protection under the tip of the coffin bone that is marked with the blue line on the next picture.



The heel on this picture is still a little to high but if the frog is sound the hoof will start exfoliating more sole in the back part of the hoof to allow the heel to ware down a little more to make the coffin bone parallel to the ground. I have done this procedure a number of times with very good success but experience shows that the rehabilitation takes rather long time since the growth rate is extremely slow on these hooves.

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