

Over worn toes.

What you see in the toe region is a symptom that comes from high heels. It tells you loud and clear that this hoof wants lower heels. The high heels is tilting the hoof forward which makes the horse walks on its tip toes (i.e. the toe is carrying much too much weight). It has nothing to do with digging or walking a lot down hill or any other creative explanation I hear from time to time.

Since you are an observant reader you have already seen that there is not possible to lower the heels on the hoof in the pictures to the right. You have naturally also seen the reason to this. Yes, a massive thrush infection has destroyed the frog leaving the nerves between the frog and the digital cushion unprotected which has made the horse grow a thicker sole in the back part of the hoof to elevate the sore nerves up from the ground.

Treat the thrush in an effective way and the horse will start exfoliating sole (i.e. making the sole thinner) in the rear part of the hoof to lower the heels to an, for the horse, acceptable height.

If your horse has over worn toes, check the heels. If you find hoof wall sticking out from the level of the hard sole you must trim it away. You can scrape the sole with a small paint scraper to get rid of any exfoliated sole to

find the level of the hard sole. The scraper will not damage the hard sole which a sharp knife might do. Exfoliated sole has no place on a natural hoof. If the hoof has a perfect shape it will be worn away at the same speed as it exfoliates. (My domesticated horses does not have any exfoliated sole left on their hooves even though they live on grass.)

If your horse gets sore because you lower the heels to the level of the hard sole the frog is impaired and needs to be treated and rehabilitated. Leaving the heels higher or shoeing the horse does not do the job.

If your horse has over worn toes but no hoof wall sticking out (as on the pictures above) I promise you your horse, just like most other horses, suffers from thrush.

