

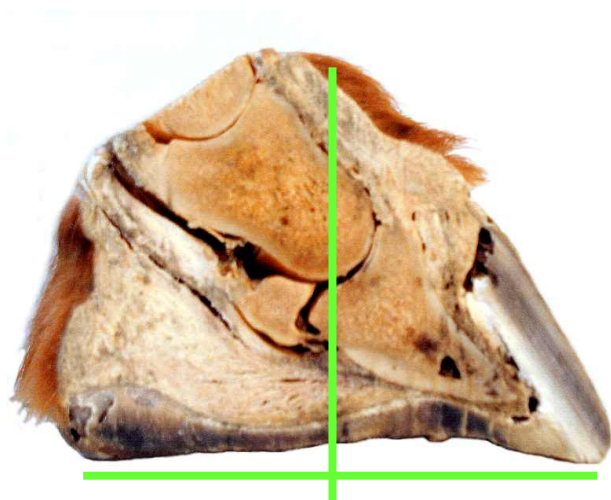
Why long hoof care intervals can cause lead change problems.

Every horse that stands like this is suffering! No exceptions. Suffering from cramped breast muscles. These cramped muscles are extremely sore and hurt when you touch them and when



the horse tries to lift a front leg forward. This might very well interfere with both hoof care and lead changes.

A laminitic horse stands with his front feet in front of him because the pain is most intense in the toe region. The above horse however stands with his feet under him because his front hooves hurt the most in the rear part. He doesn't need to be sick or have a condition to choose to stand like this. Too long hoof care intervals are enough. The anatomic center of gravity is set by the weight coming down through the skeleton so the anatomic center of gravity will never change. Leg angles and hoof shape can not change this fact. Consider the great weight of the horse being divided on to four relatively small hooves. The pressure in

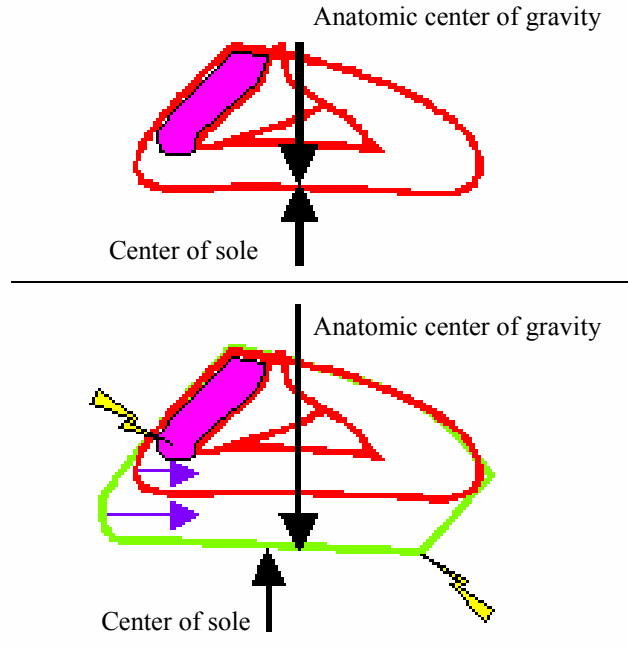


each hoof is great and the horse is very sensitive to any little deviation from perfect. When you got 300 lbs pressing down on a surface as large as you hand you will not accept anything else than perfect balance and even pressure.

When you study the anatomic balance of the natural hoof you will find that the center of gravity is place right over the center of the weight bearing surface. If you study the same thing on an average domesticated horse you will find something completely different. Usually 3/4 of the weight bearing surface is in front of the center of gravity and only 1/4 behind.

This comes from the simple fact that the sole is moving forward when the hoof grows and gets higher.

This will over load the heels of the hoof and make the horse move the hooves backwards to lighten the pressure of the heels and press down the toes with muscular power to get an even pressure over the whole surface. All horses will eventually get their hooves in anatomic balance if they get the help they need from natural hoof care but some horses with under developed rear part of the hoof will need longer time to develop the rear part enough to be able to carry the load it is supposed to carry. When the hooves are in anatomic balance the horse will stand with it's legs perpendicular to the ground. There is no excuse for not standing like that and there are no horses that are made for standing in any other way. Of course a horse may stop in the middle of a step and be standing in any position for a while but when the horse has settled to rest for a longer while it shall always stand with it's legs in the right position.



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