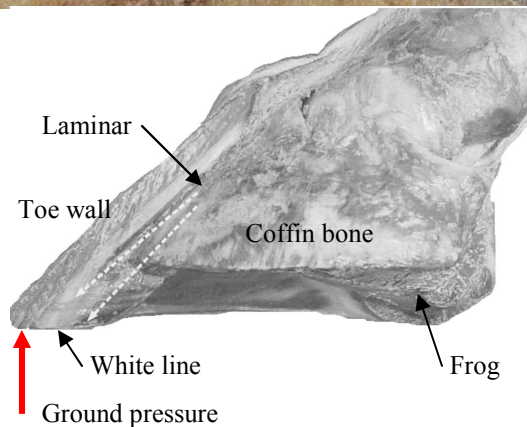


Red white line.

If the white line turns red it is because the hoof wall has been carrying more weight than the white line could handle. The white line is what connects the hoof wall to the sole and the laminae is what connects the hoof wall to the coffin bone. This means that the white line and the laminae are what keeps the hoof wall in place and stops it from being bent out and being deformed by the forces put on the hoof wall when being weight bearing. Even if the hoof wall might feel hard and sturdy to us weak humans it is fairly soft and deformable for the horse. Just think of what it has to withstand when the horse runs in rocky terrain. It is much better to compare a horse hoof with a tennis shoe than with a sturdy working boot. It bends and stretches all the time under the horse's weight on uneven terrain. (I show fantastic video sequences of this on my seminars.) A perfectly sound white line and laminae can naturally handle much more weight than an impaired one. The red white line might very well be the first indication of a founder attack. You can see on the pictures that the laminae in the white line is stretched but not broken.

Stretch it a little more and it will break.

The size of the leverage breaking the hoof wall out of place depends on the shape of the hoof. A long hoof wall will create a larger leverage that will put more force on the laminae when it tries to break the hoof wall loose from the coffin bone. The only way to reduce the stressed white line is to trim away more of the hoof wall. A shoe will only increase the weight carried by the hoof wall and therefore increase the stress on the white line. Remember that the shoe is nailed to the hoof wall which will move it away from the rest of the hoof and the sole when the hoof wall grows. Even if the hoof is shod with contact between the shoe and the sole that is only good for a very short time since as soon as the hoof wall has grown just a little there will be air between the shoe and the sole and the hoof wall is carrying all the weight again.



Ove Lind
Swedish Hoof School Inc.
www.SwedishHoofSchool.com

The best way to get more information on this and other related topics is to attend one of my seminars. If there isn't one scheduled in your neighborhood you have two choices: Host one yourself or wait for the book and the DVD-series that both are under production.