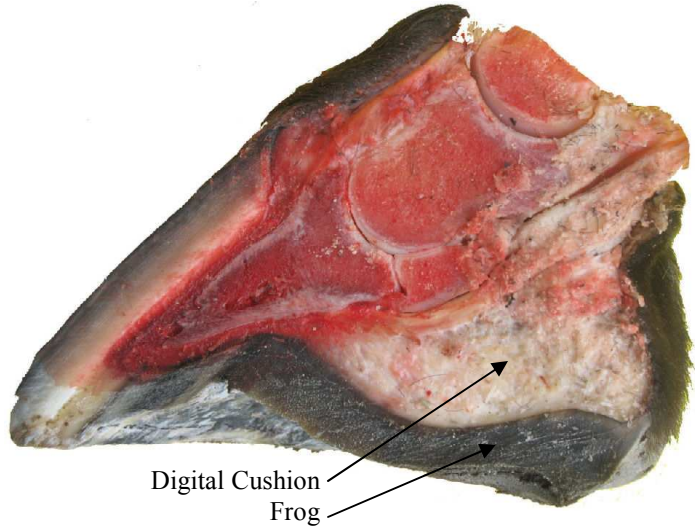


## Sensitive frogs.

The frog doesn't contain any nerves (or blood) so the frog can not really be sensitive. The nerves are found from the tissue between the frog and the digital cushion and further into the hoof.

The frog is supposed to be a sturdy yet flexible protection of the sensitive parts inside the hoof.

Compare the horse's frog with the pad of a cat, dog, camel or elephant. This pad is supposed to be able to carry the complete animal over rocks and sand trough freezing snow and hot desserts.



The frog is supposed to be able to cope with an enormous abuse always being the first part touching the ground in every single step regardless of footing or speed. The frog is supposed to be the support upon which the digital cushion will be compressed to absorb the concussion when the hoof touches the ground and get loaded. It is also the completely essential base for the hoof mechanism. Less frog pressure directly leads to a decreased hoof mechanism and blood circulation. You can almost say “No frog pressure, No blood circulation”.

If the frog gets impaired by thrush or extensive trimming it will almost completely lose both its protective and its supporting abilities. The nerves between the frog and the digital cushion will be left unprotected and the hoof mechanism will be diminished to a fraction of its natural capacity.

Shoeing the horse or leaving the heels high does not solve any frog related problems but instead is only lifting the frog away from the completely essential ground pressure which is the only thing that can strengthen the frog in the long perspective. It is as effective as keeping away from the gym if you need to build muscles (since it might give you soreness). The trick is to strengthen the frog in an environment that creates exercise instead of pain. Like in boots and pads or on sand or other soft footings.

The absolutely most frequent cause of frog related problems are thrush and thrush is a much more complicated issue to defeat than most people understand. See my article on “Treating Thrush” for more details.

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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.