

Standing Behind.

The symptom “Standing Behind” is not caused by Founder or Laminitis. When it comes to front legs it is caused by toe pain in the front hooves usually created by the fact that the hoof shape puts more stress on the toe lamina than it can accept. Instead the horse tries to load the rear part of the hooves that is still sound enough to carry the weight. A horse with both Founder and Laminitis will still stand square as long as the hoof shape is the correct one. The problem is caused by a too long toe that creates a leverage that lets ground pressure break the hoof wall away from the coffin bone and while doing that stretches the lamina. A hoof that suffers from Founder or Laminitis is of course much more sensitive in the toe lamina since both these issues diminish the strength of the lamina.



Leaving the heels higher to try to straighten the horse up only increases the pain in the hooves since it moves the rear end of the supporting surface more to the front giving the hoof a smaller and misplaced weight bearing area.

Shoeing the horse doesn't solve the problem either. It might disguise a part of the problem since it stops the ground pressure from using the too long toe to break the hoof wall away from the coffin bone but it doesn't do anything to the real problem that is the too long toe.

Doing a square toe only works absolutely straight forward but it still leaves a leverage in “the front corners” since they are still sticking out too far away from the coffin bone and the natural shape.

The solution is to make the hoof smaller all around to reduce the leverages (i.e. the length of material reaching away from the coffin bone).

When it comes to standing behind the hind feet (i.e. with the hind feet too far forward) the problem is still usually a pain in the front feet but in this case usually in the heel region causing the horse to stand with the front feet too far back leaving them carrying too much of the body weight. To compensate this the horse moves the hind feet forward to increase the weight they are carrying. It can also be that the toe leverage is too big breaking the toe wall away from the coffin bone creating pain in the lamina but that is usually only the case on Laminitic horses with too long toes.

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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.