

Standing Under.

This is probably the most common posture issue there is. I'm afraid some horse owners not only think it is okay but also that it looks "powerful" or something because it is so very common on pictures of stallions that is promoted for breeding. The truth is that this horse is in serious pain. The pain comes from a problem in the rear part of the front feet. The most common reason is probably a thrush infected frog but it can also be caused by too high hooves or too high heels.



When the hooves and/or the heels gets too high it moves the supporting surface of the hoof forward with the weight of the horse over loading the back end of the it. The horse will then move the front feet in under the belly to reduce the load on the rear part of the hoof and increase it on the toe region to even the load as equally as possible over the supporting surface.

Navicular syndrome, which usually comes from high heels and/or over loaded bars, can also give this symptom.

As soon as a horse is not standing square any more it will add pain from muscular cramps to the already painful posture. If the front legs are out of position the cramp will spread all the way up to the withers creating problems with lifting the front legs forward and doing lead changes.

One big problem is that when both the front and the rear part of the hoof hurts just as much the horse will still be standing square. If you observe the horse for a while you will how ever see that this horse shifts its weight between the left and right front hoof which is a major indicator of a serious problem. It is okay for a horse to rest a hind hoof as long as they rest both hooves just as much but it is not okay for a horse to rest a front hoof or shift the weight between the sides.



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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 your self or wait for the book and the DVD-series that both are under production.