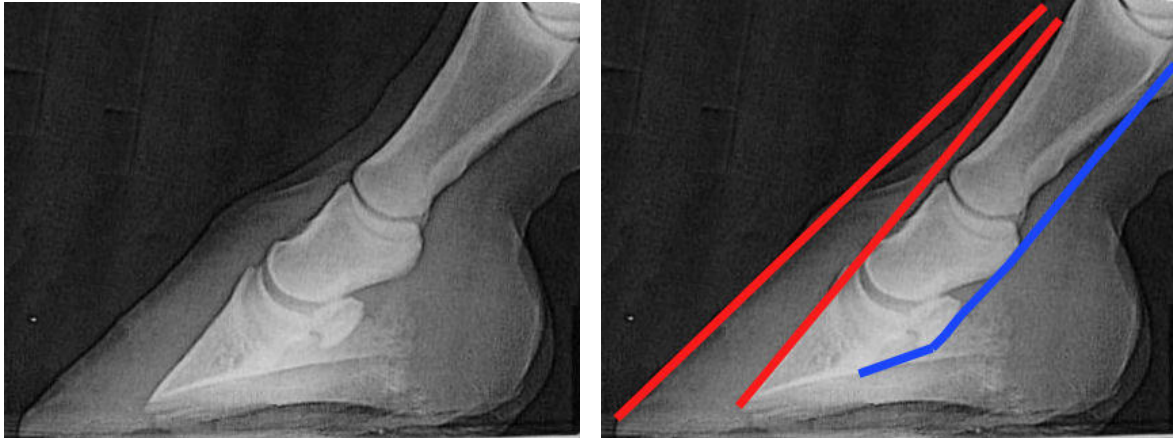


Tradition and prestige is the horse's worst enemy.

Such a simple hoof problem as "coffin bone rotation" is still one of the most common reasons for putting a horse down prematurely just because the tradition has such a firm grip on the horse using community.

The condition "coffin bone rotation" is determined from an x-ray of the horse's hoof taken from the side. If the front side of the coffin bone is not parallel to the hoof wall (the two red lines) the



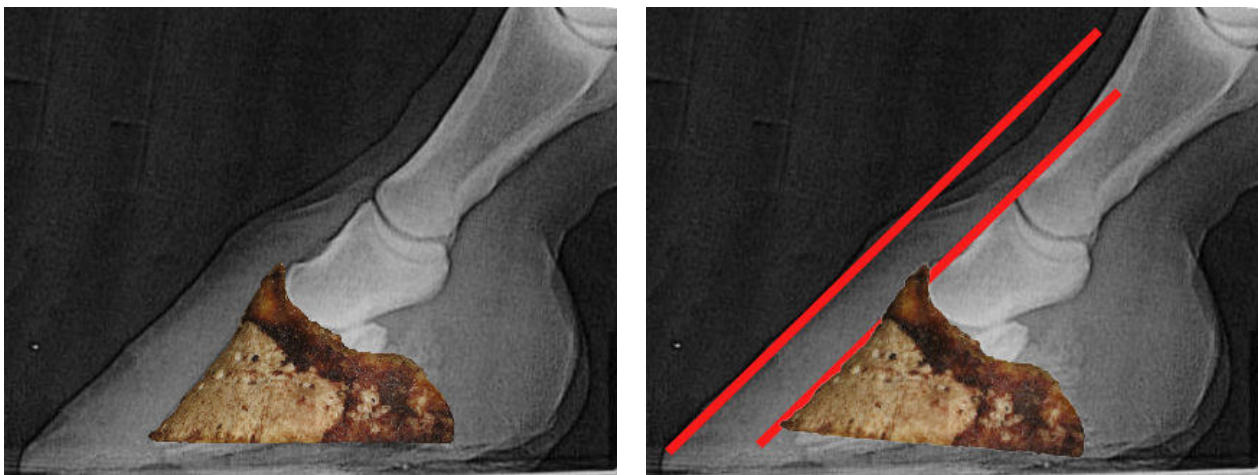
N Hoof with "coffin bone rotation". (The blue line indicates the Deep Digital Flexor Tendons, DDFT)

horse gets diagnosed with "coffin bone rotation" despite the fact that this x-ray doesn't say anything about any angle of the coffin bone.

It is easy to be fooled to believe that it is the shape and angle of the coffin bone that we see on the x-rays, but it is not. The x-ray doesn't give us very much information on any interesting angle of the coffin bone. The only interesting angle, the one to the ground, is impossible to see on this x-ray. What we see on this x-ray is only the thickness of the coffin bone and that is completely irrelevant.

The traditional explanation to that the hoof wall and the coffin bone isn't parallel is that the coffin bone got unfasten from the hoof wall and the tension of the DDFT has rotated the tip of the coffin bone downwards.

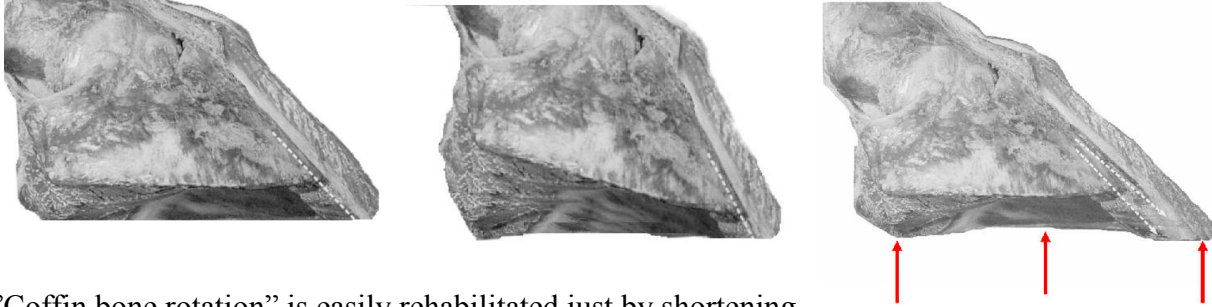
If we copy a real coffin bone into the x-ray picture everything will change radically.



Traditionally it is said that before the rotation took place the coffin bone was parallel to the hoof wall but it is easy to see on the right picture that such an explanation doesn't comply.

No one can believe that the coffin bone had this angle before the DDFT "rotated the coffin bone to a ground parallel position". If the "coffin bone rotation" had been bigger to begin with that would have made the coffin bone stick out through the sole in the back of the hoof the day before the "coffin bone rotation" took place.

That the condition "coffin bone rotation" has nothing to do with the angle of the coffin bone is clearly demonstrated by the following pictures where only the right one suffers from "coffin bone rotation". The pressure from the ground has simply broken away the hoof wall and made it pointing slightly more forward on the right hoof (white dotted lines). The angle of the coffin bone does not get affected by this.



"Coffin bone rotation" is easily rehabilitated just by shortening the toe, in a way that the horse can accept, to regain the hooves natural shape. When this is done the toe wall will take a steeper more natural angle from the top. The new hoof that grows down from the coronary band will now be parallel to the coffin bone. The steeper top part of the hoof wall will gradually grow longer and longer as long as it doesn't get affected by any unnaturally breaking forces from a long toe. When it reaches the ground the "coffin bone rotation" will be gone. When the new steeper part of the hoof wall has come down to about half way the hoof will look kind of funny but it is the only way to regain the natural and sound shape.



Sometimes the horse chooses to do the whole transformation in one step and sometimes in up to three steps. The horse on the picture did it in three steps. The only reason for not succeeding with the rehabilitation of "coffin bone rotation" right away is if the hoof gets a bacterial infection under the hoof wall that destroys the new tissue and makes it too easy to break the hoof wall loose again. To remove the hoof wall to get rid of the infection is rather hash. I believe a better solution is to soak the hoof daily in water mixed with a little apple cider vinegar.

The knowledge about how easy it is to rehabilitate "coffin bone rotation" is by no way a secret. It has been done by hundreds of natural hoof care practitioners around the world for years but tradition and prestige is standing in the way of getting the traditional hoof care community to accept the method and that is why lots and lots of horses still go to the slaughter house because of what is called "coffin bone rotation".

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