

Corns

CAUSE

- Almost invariably caused by shoes which fit improperly (fitted short and tight at the heels) and traumatize the seat of corn
- Corns are also caused by:
 - ❑ Shoes left for long period (as the hoof grows the shoe is carried forward causing the heel branches of the shoe to traumatize the seat of corn)
 - ❑ Stones or other debris becoming lodged between the shoe and the seat of corn, resulting in bruising
 - ❑ Excessive weight bearing at the heels (seen in horses with low heels or where heel calks or heel studs have been used, traumatizing the seat of corn)

Corns

DIAGNOSIS

- Severity of lameness depends upon the degree of bruising)
- Affected horse may have shortened cranial phase of stride with toes contacting the ground, saving the heels
- Lameness is usually increased on hard ground, when circling, or when shoes are removed and
- Lameness decreased on soft ground
- feet may feel warm to the touch
- After sole paring, a dry, moist or suppurating bruise can be seen at the seat of corn
- There is pain response to hoof testers specifically over the seat of corn rather than all over the sole.
- Radiographs may be used to rule out other causes of lameness

Corns

TREATMENT

- Horse shoes are removed.
- In dry or moist corns the sole is pared out to relieve pressure (sole should not be pared excessively in horses with thin soles as this may worsen the condition).



Paring out a dry corn



WET CORN

Corns

TREATMENT

- Suppurating corns are opened and drained:
 - Infected corn is located with a hoof knife
 - Sole opened over the corn to allow pus to drain
 - Hole is flushed with hydrogen peroxide and/or antiseptic foot spray
 - Poultice is applied to the foot to encourage drainage of pus
 - Poultice is removed 24 to 48 hours later and hole treated with antiseptic foot spray
 - Foot is dry bandaged for a further 24 to 48 hours

- Horse is rested until it is better.

Corns

PREVENTION

- Regularly trim and shoe the horse's feet
- Make sure that shoes are fitted correctly to the horse's feet (not too short at the heels)
- Avoid excessive trauma on hard ground
- Horses with thin soles often have poorly balanced feet (usually with long toes and low heels) and this should be corrected if possible with egg-bar shoes fitted when needed
- Hoof pads, which remain very popular with some owners and trainers, are often fitted in an attempt to prevent bruising of the sole, however they must be used with care since they are often ineffective and sometimes even detrimental



**POOR FOOT CONFORMATION
PREDISPOSES THE HORSE TO
DEVELOP CORNS**

Thrush

INTRODUCTION

- Thrush is an unpleasant infection of the frog
- Thrush is predisposed by moist, damp, dirty ground or stable conditions

Thrush

CAUSE

- Thrush is an infection of the central and lateral sulci of the frog.
- Bacterial infection is most often involved in the development of thrush:
 - One species of bacterium, *Fusobacterium necrophorum*, is particularly aggressive and it invades and destroys the frog, sometimes exposing the deeper sensitive tissues
- Occasionally a fungal infection can lead to thrush as well.
- Long heel conformation encourages the development of deep narrow frog sulci which, under appropriate environmental conditions, become more prone to the development of thrush.

Thrush

DIAGNOSIS: CLINICAL EXAMINATION

- A foul smelling, black discharge is found in the affected sulci of the frog
- Horse demonstrates pain when pressure is applied to the affected area
- Infection may result in a general swelling of the distal limb

Thrush

TREATMENT

- Horse should be moved into a dry, clean environment
- Foot should be thoroughly cleaned and the necrotic debris within the affected frog sulci removed
- Sulci should then be pared to reveal the healthy tissue beneath and allow air to reach any remaining damaged tissue
- Frog should be scrubbed daily with a dilute iodine solution
- Any remaining areas of unhealthy tissue should be regularly plugged with cotton wool soaked in antiseptic (e.g. povidone iodine)
- Two weeks of treatment is usually effective
- Tetanus antitoxin injection given, if necessary

Thrush

AFTER-CARE

- Horse should be kept in clean, dry stable conditions
- The frog should be cleaned and trimmed regularly until the infection is controlled and the tissues heal

Thrush

PREVENTION

- Preventing thrush is better than curing thrush
- Thrush can be avoided by good stable management, and regular foot care and inspection
- Stable horse in clean dry conditions
- Have horses' feet regularly trimmed and shod by a competent farrier to avoid the development of long heel conformation and to keep the frog healthy

Thrush

CAUTION

- With early treatment and good stable and environmental management, the prognosis for complete recovery is good (treatment will usually be required for 7 - 14 days)
- Prognosis for complete resolution is good unless the infection has been allowed to become chronic and/or there is extensive involvement of the deeper tissues (even then, diligent draining and plugging every two days for two weeks is usually effective)