

The Affects of Horseshoes on Your Horse

Your horse will experience some or all of the following affects by having horseshoes nailed onto his/her hooves.

- Loss of or restricted natural hoof function.
- Increased concussion. "A shod horse walking on pavement is exposed to 3 times the impact force of an unshod horse *trotting* on pavement". (Dr Hiltrud Strasser – A Lifetime of Soundness)
- Contraction of whole hoof.
- Heel contraction.
- Vital nerve function impairment.
- Loss of circulation in hooves and lower limbs resulting in cold insensitive feet.
- Increased likelihood of solar bruising.
- Reduced healing and unbalanced chemical processes at a cellular level.
- Loss of natural traction and reduced traction.
- Prevention of natural hoof wear.
- Reduction in hoof wall thickness, integrity and strength.
- Reduction in hoof capsule insulation due to nails conducting cold.
- Unnatural strains and damage to bones, laminae, coriums, ligaments, blood vessels, cartilage, joints, muscles and tendons.
- Pinching of corium and living tissues in the hoof.
- Loss of healthy frog and loss of frog function.
- Bruising of Navicular area and heel pain.
- Impaired healthy hoof growth.
- Increased susceptibility to seedy toe, white line disease, thrush and other bacterial and fungal infections.
- Unnatural hoof shape.
- Move or change the 'natural' breakover point of the hoof.
- Thinning of the solar callus due to rasping a flat plane to fit a shoe.
- Long heels resulting in unnatural coffin bone angle.
- Increased lever arm, pendulum and centrifugal effect of the extra weight and unnatural dynamics of the shoe and nails.
- Unnatural vibration of horseshoes. At 800hz the vibration of a horseshoe damages living tissue. (Luca Bein – Zurich University)
- Sole flexing prevented resulting in internal bruising of the sole by the coffin bone.
- Shock Absorption reduced by 70% - 80%.

A well maintained* barehoof horse will **not** develop or experience these conditions or pathologies. *Well maintained includes regular correct trimming, plenty of natural movement on suitable surfaces and an appropriate feed regime.

And for you the rider or horseperson, horseshoes can have some or all of the following impacts-

- Your horse cannot feel the ground.
- Your horse has much less traction especially on hard surfaces.
- A kick from a shod hoof can be lethal to humans or other horses.
- Your horse may be experiencing chronic limb and hoof pain.
- A horse that loses a shoe on a ride is usually unrideable.
- You will have a reduced 'useful' life of your horse.
- Your horse will suffer from a plethora of hoof problems, lameness and unsoundness as a result of being shod.
- You are at the mercy of your farrier.
- Your horse can get tangled up in a plain wire fence with resultant injuries to the horse and damage to the fence.
- You will spend more time and money at your vet clinic.

If you wish to discuss these matters and explore the option of having your horse successfully barehoof, then please contact me -

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**'Not all barefoot hooves are Natural
But all Natural Hooves are Barefoot'**