



Welcome to Holistic Hoof Care



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This course is an expression of the belief that good hoof care is necessary but by itself is not enough for optimal hoof health.

Optimal health requires overall holistic management principles. Holistic hoof care means that the whole horse must be balanced in order to achieve the strongest possible feet.

Posture and normal physiology are interrelated. How the horse's hoof is balanced and how the horse lands and loads each foot affects the physiological function of many body systems, most significantly the nervous and musculoskeletal system. If problems are alleviated by chiropractic care or correct trimming, it is through balance that the healing power of the body has been restored.

The goal of a holistic hoof care approach first and foremost is to prevent disease or discomfort. This approach can also offer options differing from conventional approaches for treating common hoof dysfunctions. Holistic hoof care is distinctly different from conventional hoof care. This will become very apparent as you progress through this course.



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Picture left: Contracted hoof Picture right: Un-contracted hoof

In many modern veterinary and farrier text and reference books, hooves that are depicted and described as healthy and anatomically correct are in fact, pathological and deformed. Due to the prevalence of such deformed nonfunctional hooves, a healthy hoof shape, hoof functions and their importance to the organism are insufficiently represented or completely misunderstood. As a result, the true causes of lameness are equally misunderstood.

Many horses are unnecessarily put down in their teens or earlier due to the recurrent chronic or incurable lameness problems, often after years of harmful, inappropriate and unproductive treatment. This lamentable scenario is becoming accepted as normal.

In order to make your studies a positive experience, we suggest that you keep a journal about the key points that you are learning. You also may want to start drawing a lot of pictures. Drawing is a very powerful tool to understand and remember what you have learned. Do not despair if your drawings are initially not very artistic. With practice you will get better.

Pictures courtesy of Equestrian Images, Dwayne Dyer - HoofCareUnLtd.

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