



## Destabilization of the Hoof Capsule

When trimming, one must take into consideration what happens when you trim. Are you just taking excess hoof material or are you actually changing the mechanics of the hoof? If you are just taking the excess hoof material, then the horse should move a little better after the trim than before. You have adjusted the heel landing point, rounded the sharp corners, merged the frog with the sole, shortened some overgrown bars. Good. You check for hoof mechanism and it is about the same as before. Nothing in the stability of the hoof capsule has changed.

### **Caveat:**

If you have after your trim more (or much more) hoof mechanism than before trimming, you have destabilized the hoof capsule to some extent. This may in some instances inflame the hoof and make the horse uncomfortable. So you may want to be careful with the following and **try to do only one adjustment at a time**, carefully watching that the horse remains sound after your trimming.

These measures may destabilize the hoof capsule:

- Shortening the hoof (backing it up)
- Trimming the bars short
- Lowering the heel
- Trimming the sole
- Inserting a high and/or long scoop

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