



## Another way to look at the hoof

So far when looking at the outside of the hoof we have primarily looked at the coronet band and the toe line. We learned to respect the 30° coronet band and the 45° and 55° (approximately) toe line and evaluating the 105° (or 95°) relationship between the two. Here we are going to view the hoof with another tool: The horn tubules. With a little practice you can see a whole different hoof with the help of the horn tubules. There are approximately 600 horn tubules in every hoof. They are easy to spot in a multi-colored hoof.



Remember that the hoof grows anew from the coronet band and the growth from the coronet band is in direct relation to the pressures being exerted from the weight onto the coronet and directed from the resistance of the ground. In a multi-colored hoof like the



one on the right you can easily see how the horn tubules grow according to these pressures.



The direction of the tubules gives you a good idea about the problems (or absence of the same) in the hoof

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Every one of these tubules tells a story: Under run, inflammation ridges, maybe infrequent trimming.



The orientation gives you a good idea from the front as well. Remember the coffin bone underneath the hoof capsule. It determines in a large part the shape of the hoof capsule.



The lamellae on the inside of the hoof capsule are the same direction as the horn tubules.



So you can tell just by the orientation of the hoof tubules if you are making progress towards rehabilitation.

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