



Coronet Contraction

In a hoof with coronet contraction the lateral hoof walls, seen from the sole, are no longer curved, but straight. Viewed from the front the wall looks narrow and high, the diameter below the coronet is the same or less than at the coronet.

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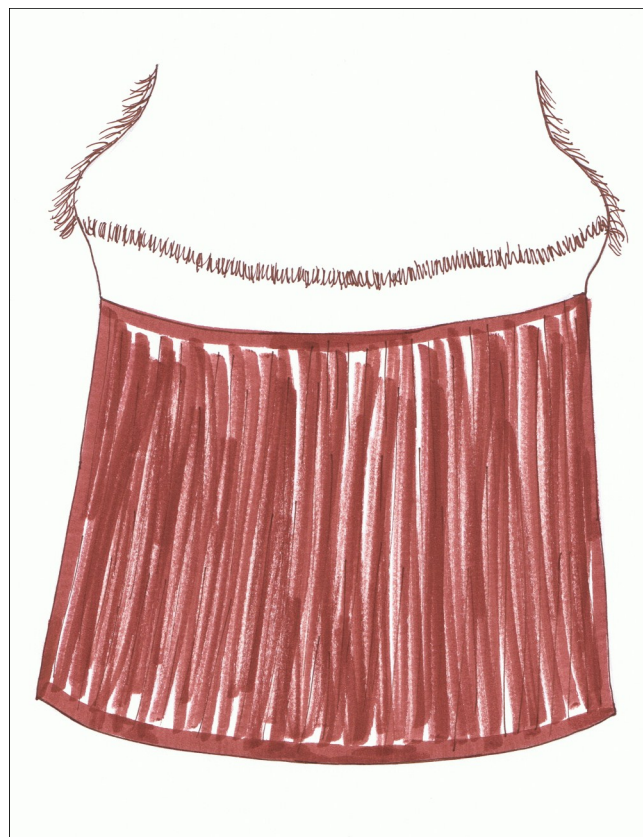
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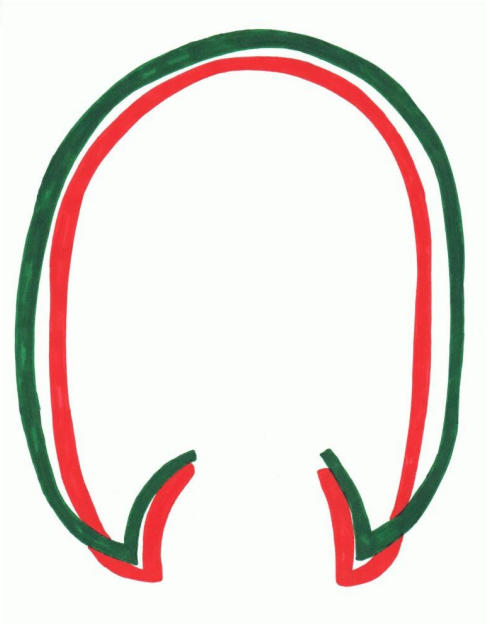


Hoof with swollen coronet, often (but not always) in connection with coronet contraction

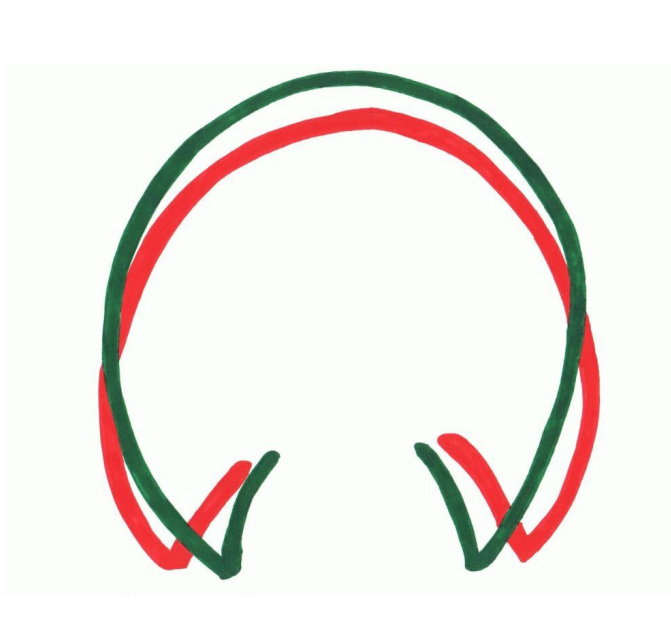




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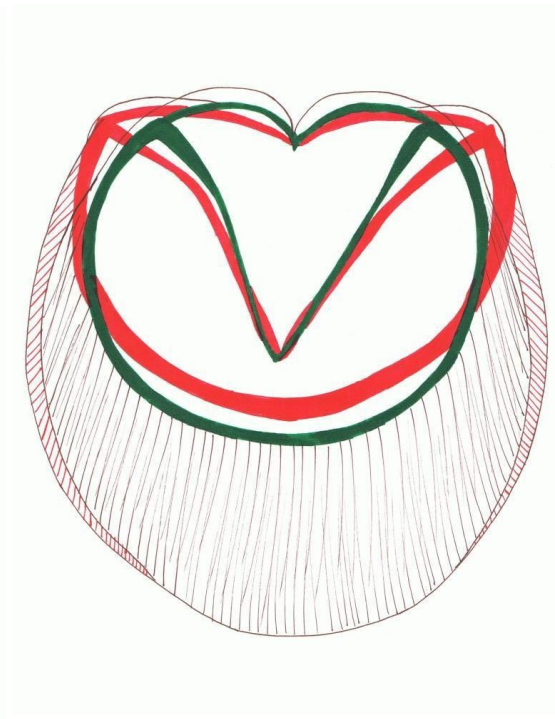
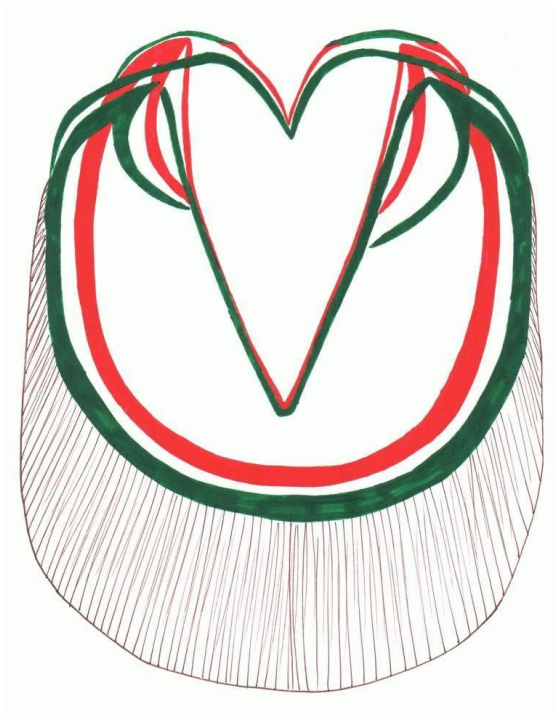


Movement of the coronet in a shod hoof with high heels. The coronet decreases in diameter on weight bearing (red line). result: Coronet contraction



Movement of a healthy coronet from non-weight bearing (green) to weight bearing (red). The coronet increases laterally when weight bearing

Same like in previous picture, here depicted with hoof capsules. Left hoof with coronet contraction, right healthy hoof. Please observe how in weight bearing (red) the hoof capsule does not expand in a hoof with coronet contraction.





Causes for Coronet Contraction

- Shoeing
- High heels
- Excessively long hooves
- Especially a combination of the above three
- Long, underslung heel



Trimming for Coronet Contraction

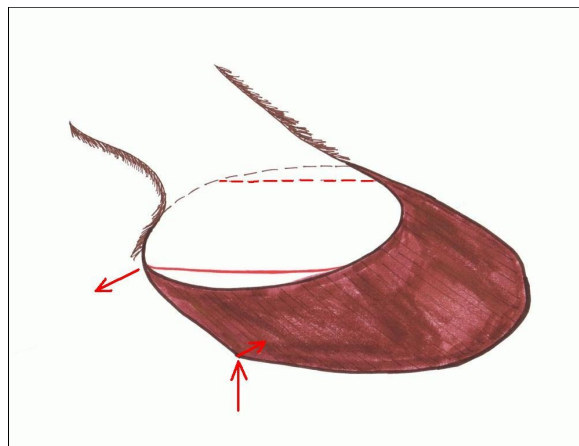
A really difficult contraction to fix. It will often take a long time. The coronet contracted hoof is smaller in the diameter at the top. You have to take this into consideration when trimming. Do not trim the hoof to match to the small coronet. Envision the hoof as it will be after de-contraction and adjust your parameters accordingly. Once you have achieved a 30° hairline, the forces coming correctly onto the coronet band will in time widen the same.

As coronet contraction is almost always combined with high or underslung heels, it is important to set the heel point back as far as possible to afford the horse a new point to land heel first.

Furthermore you need to make sure that the bars are over shortened, so they no longer lever up into the hoof.

Long bars will help to pull the heels forward and straighten the walls.

Shortening the toe will ease the breakover and *over time* you will achieve a more correct hoof form from the coronet down.



Straight walls of a hoof with coronet contraction

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This is the sole of a typical hoof with coronet contraction. High heels, plenty of toe in front of the apex of the frog



Here the heels have been taken down, the toe could still be shorter. As this is a front hoof, we are aiming for a round form. This will take time, especially if this was a long time situation and the lateral walls of the coffin bone are already compromised.



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Pictures: Dr. Hiltrud Strasser, HoofCareUnLtd.
Drawings: r.g photography