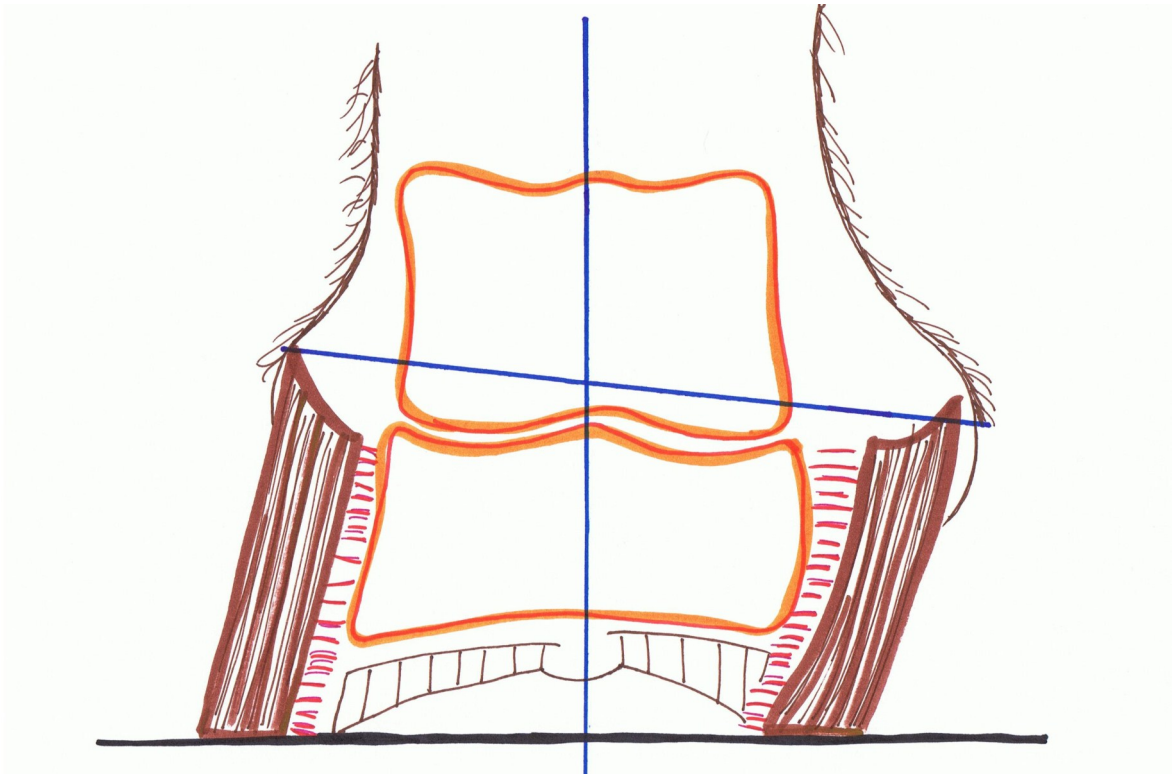
ULCBV (Unilateral Contraction Beyond the Vertical)

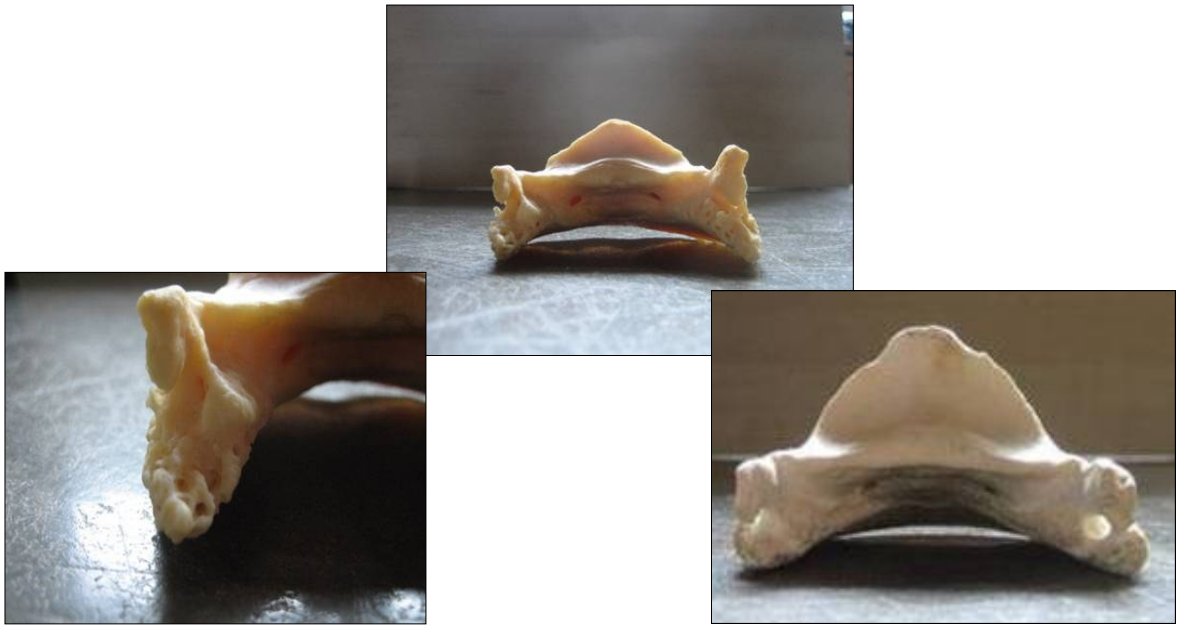
In many cases hooves aren't symmetrical, but have one-sided contractions.

When the wall is pushed beyond the vertical just on one side, this is named "Uni-Lateral Contraction Beyond the Vertical" or ULCBV



Pictures in this lecture: Todd Merrell, Dr. H. Strasser, HoofCareUnLtd.
Drawings: r.g photography

In the pictures below you see how a long term ULCBV has deformed the coffin bone through extensive, prolonged pressure.



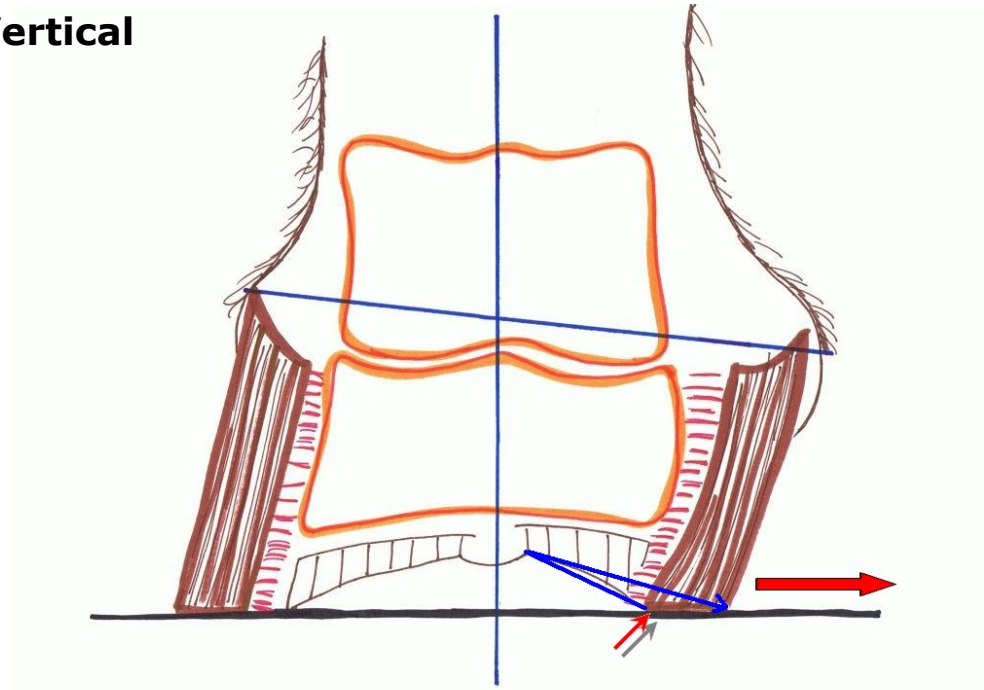
If this kind of contraction exists already for a long time, the palmar process and/or the edge of the coffin bone on the contracted side may already be destroyed

Causes for Uni-Lateral Contraction Beyond the Vertical

Trimming mistakes, leaving the hoof out of balance for a long time

Injuries

Trimming for Uni-Lateral Contraction Beyond the Vertical



In a hoof that has one wall contracted beyond the vertical you trim the wall (as well as the bar and the heel point) on the same plane as the sole, giving it an outward slant. This works best if the horse lives on hard terrain and the contraction is not too severe. If you do have enough toe height, you may also elect to tip the hoof slightly onto the diagonal toe in order to relieve the pressure on the contracted wall. This is achieved by trimming or rasping the diagonal toe from the bottom (shortening the toe).

Same hoof 4 months apart. Left
Front: Medial wall was inside the vertical.
After 4 months the lateral wall has grown out to be vertical.

By continuing this protocol, there is a good chance to walk the lateral wall further out to become once more diverging.

However: If the contracted side is also the higher side, lowering the high side would move the beyond the vertical wall even more towards the center of the hoof. In this case you can only work with trimming at solar concavity. How much inward slant you put on the wall will be determined by how the horse reacts to the change. Do a little then add more if the horse moves better.