



## Loss of Hoof Capsule

Here is where theory clashes with practical experience. While it is possible to re-gain a hoof capsule as the hoof starts to rebuild itself right after losing the entire hoof capsule, the practical application does not quite look the same. In most cases the horse losing a hoof capsule or "shoeing out" will not survive the ordeal.

In theory the hoof capsule comes off clean either through extreme laminitis or through a mechanical impact on very compromised laminae.



The result will hardly look like this.

The theory talks about the re-covering of

the hoof within hours. New horn is produced and while initially very soft, it will continue very rapidly to build a new hoof capsule.

This may in theory happen. Unfortunately most horses who lose a hoof capsule are metabolically very compromised and often the system does not have the strength to recover.

This is how it looks in reality: The hoof starts abscessing violently and pushes the hoof capsule off.

Here is the entire hoof capsule removed by pressure from wound excretion. Below another example. Neither horse survived the ordeal.



U  
N  
O  
  
A  
L  
L  
A  
  
V  
O  
L  
T  
A  
—  
  
O  
N  
E  
  
A  
T  
  
A  
  
T  
I  
M  
E



This horse didn't survive either. Notice the extensive bruising in the hood capsule prior to shedding.



U  
N  
O  
  
A  
L  
L  
A  
  
V  
O  
L  
T  
A  
—  
  
O  
N  
E  
  
A  
T  
A  
  
T  
I  
M  
E

As long as the horse has a real will to live, you may have a chance, especially when the horse is only losing one of two hoof capsules.

This is the story where the horse only lost one hoof capsule, but other things went wrong after the loss of the hoof capsule. Notice the grooving...





U  
N  
O  
  
A  
L  
L  
A  
  
V  
O  
L  
T  
A  
—  
  
O  
N  
E  
  
A  
T  
A  
  
T  
I  
M  
E

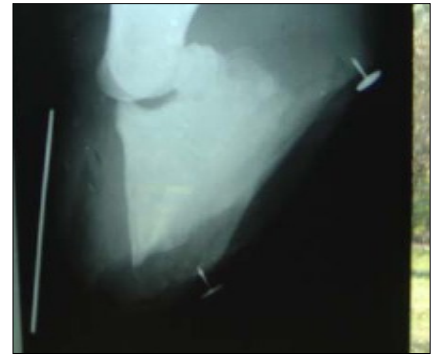
Hoof capsule is coming off.



The new hoof capsule has grown in at a wrong angle



X-ray shows that there is no "normal" connection between P2 and P3



After this horse lost the hoof capsule you can see in the lateral view how the coffin bone attached



in too steep a fashion to P2. The coffin joint was not aligned properly. The result was the joints trying to stabilize the situation by adding bone material across the coffin and the pastern joint. After this much stabilization even every day movement and frequent trimming could not remedy the configuration of bones anymore.



**What we tell our students:**

A lost hoof capsule is definitely the domain of a veterinarian. Please call your veterinarian immediately if you are suspecting that the horse may abscess his hoof capsule off.

Pictures: HoofCareUnLtd., Dr. Hood, Calan Leyendecker