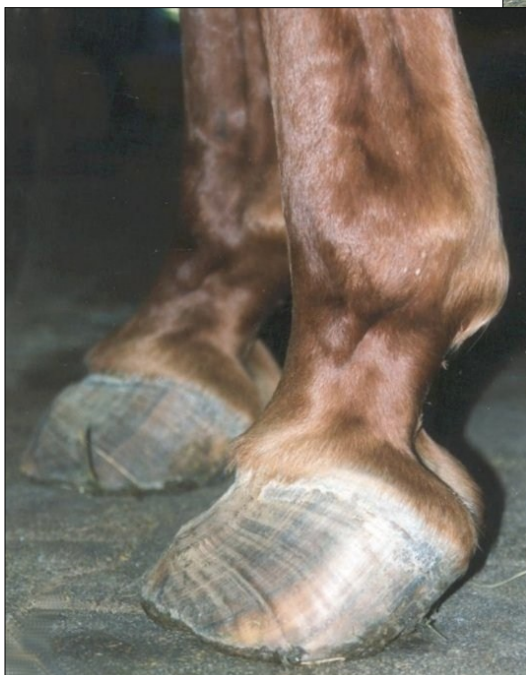




Beyond Help

There comes a time where even the best care and circumstances can not bring a horse around anymore

This horse was in a hoof clinic and progressing to some point. But as you can see from the post-mortem sagittal cut below, there is little coffin bone left to support this situation.



In a coffin bone like this the terminal arch is destroyed and there is no hope of this growing back. While you may be able to get the horse temporarily stabilized and looking better in comparison to how he looked before treatment, it is questionable if the emotional, physical and financial effort on the owners side, the pain level during recovery on the horses side and your complete investment are in balance with the quality of life the horse will have in the future.



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Another destroyed coffin bone - see comments on previous picture.



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This mare had lost the hoof capsule a couple of years earlier. The coffinbone, P2 and P1 had added bone material to stabilize a very fragile situation. At this point there was no return for this horse, no matter how well you trim and how much you walk and soak. The horse had

however a lot of spunk and life in her and kept on trucking on 3 good hooves and the one crippled one. She lives with her owner now until the situation becomes too painful for her.





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This was a Selle Francaise gelding with hoof canker in the left fore. The hoof canker did not heal with trimming, movement and soaking. (See chapter about hoof canker). He was under continuous treatment until he started to push off the hoof capsule on the "good" hoof. It did not make sense to put him through all the pain associated with a lost hoof capsule and a painful cankerous hoof. He was euthanized.





This horse was delivered to a hoof clinic with a veterinarian diagnosis of minor rotation. The veterinarian consulted with a farrier at the time of diagnosis and prescribed the shoes below. After two weeks in these shoes the owner called the hoof clinic in a panic and brought the horse the next day. The shoes were removed and the horse was trimmed.



Initially he seemed to get better, then he started to lay down and was increasingly more reluctant to get up.

Finally the x-rays arrived and revealed that he was fully sunk. After about 25 days of treatment, both front hoof capsules started to come off.

Euthanasia was recommended, the owner was opposed and took the horse home where he died three days later.



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