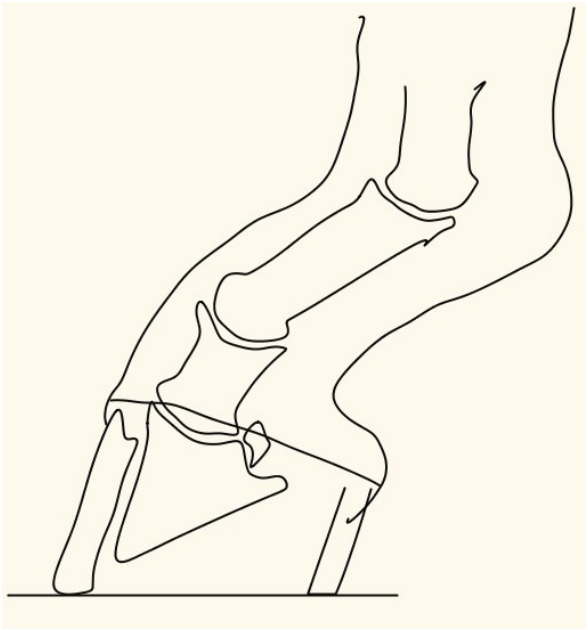
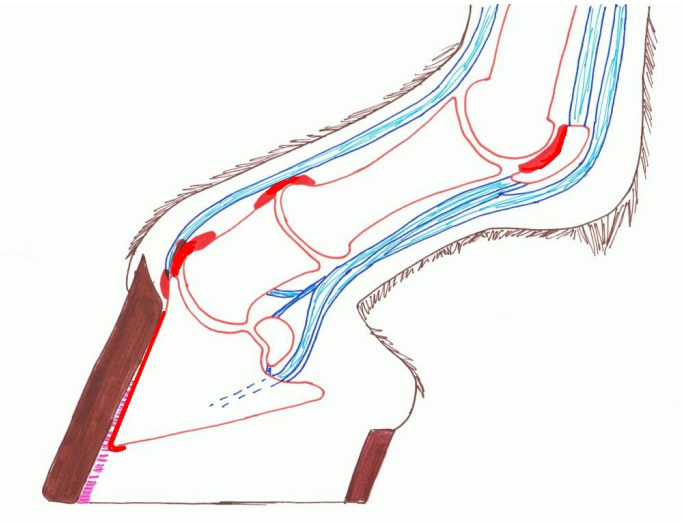
Clubfoot

This classical club foot is usually not seen as a problem in conventional veterinary medicine, since the coffin bone is still parallel to the hoof wall.



In this schematic you can see how this alignment of bones can actually lead to quite a few problems:



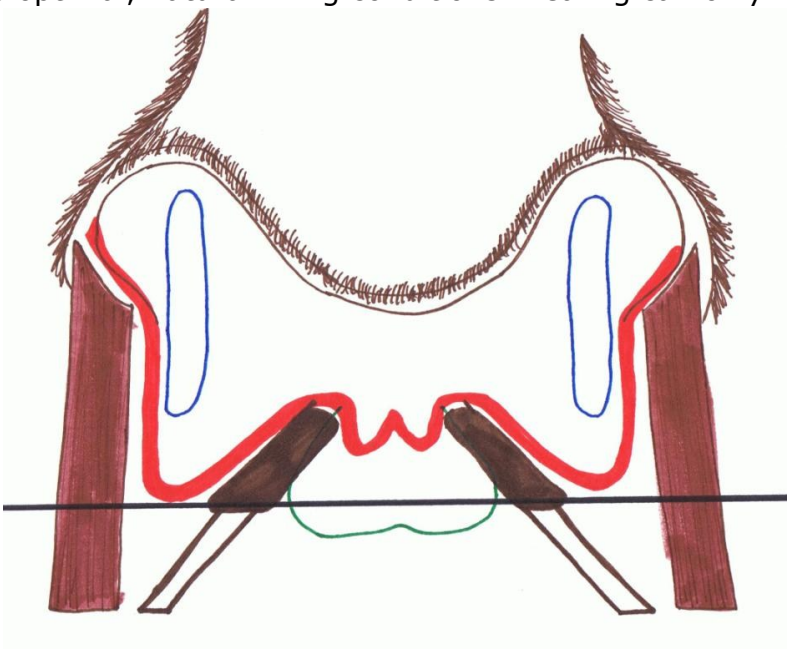
As the coffin bone is no longer ground parallel, the deep digital flexor tendon actually has now an upward pull on it. The deep digital flexor tendon also has to be kept tight by the muscles it is attached to. Stress on the frontal laminar attachment may lead to founder, frontal stress on the coffin joint, which means the joint surface is going to change. Destruction of the coffin bone tip.

Stress on the shoulder and neck musculature.

Typical club feet:

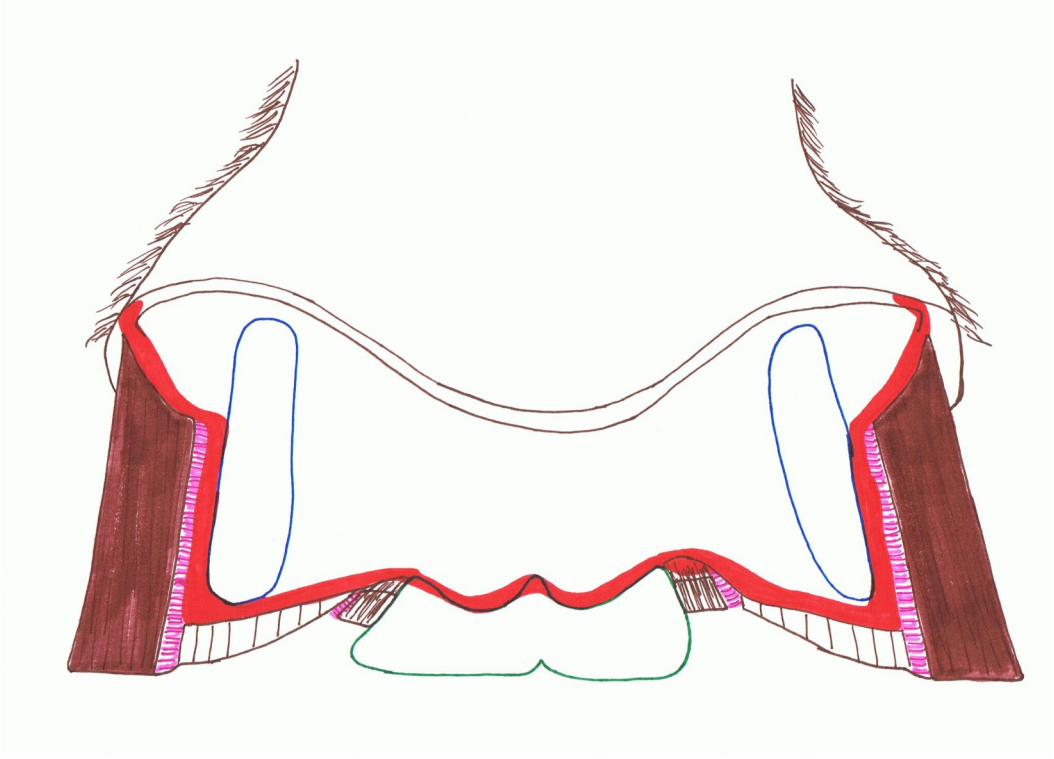
Sounds easy enough: To trim a rotated hoof, you just shorten the heels as they are too high. But there are a few things that we have to take into consideration before hand:

Ensure that the horse has optimal, natural living conditions. Healing can only take place with increased metabolism, which requires increased circulation. To facilitate increased circulation, we need to ensure movement and hoofmechanism. That again requires the right terrain - non-concussive, but firm.



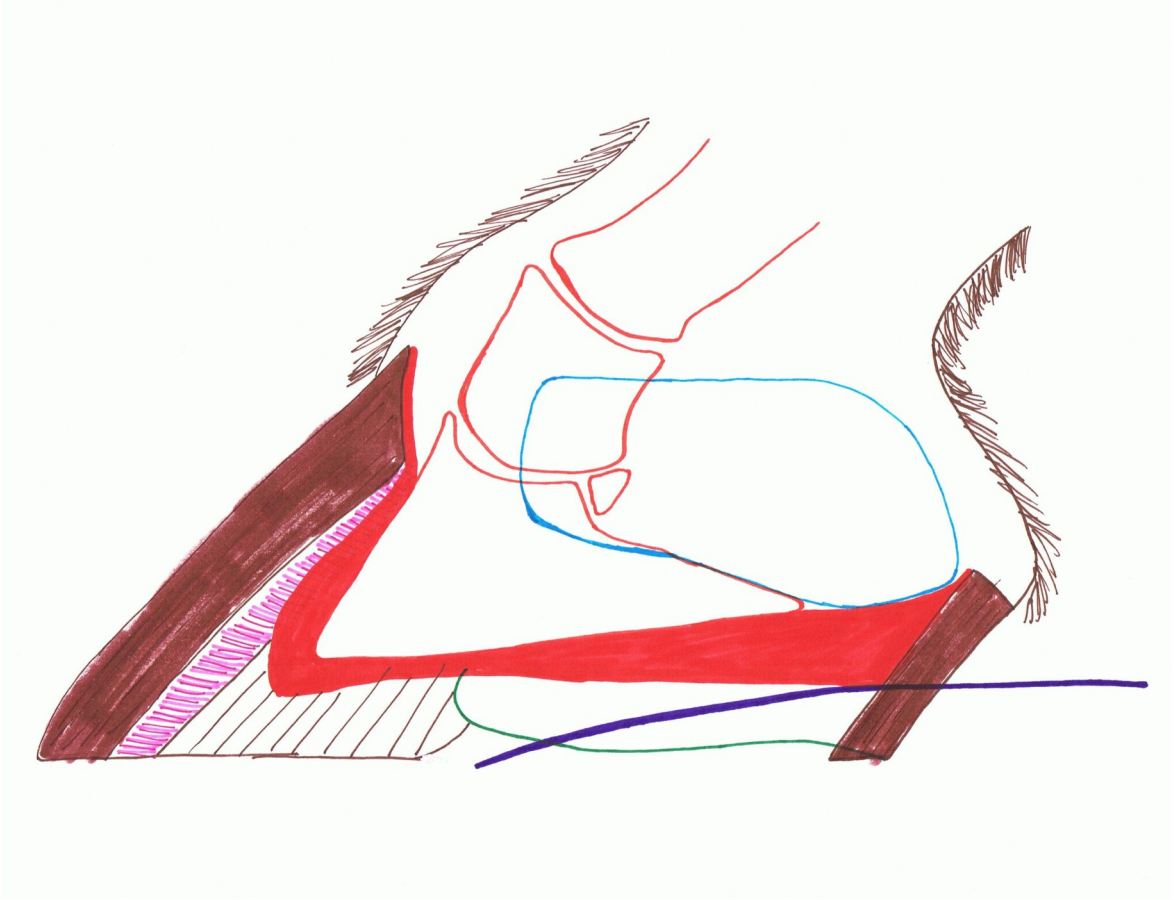
The goal of corrective trimming is to return the hoof as soon as possible to a situation that is as close as possible to the correct hoof form.

To shorten the heels alone is not enough. In the schematic above you can see that the bars would be much too high then. In order to give the sole flexibility, you have to shorten the bars as well. Left: You may even have to over-shorten the bars by a couple of millimeters in the beginning, as they are often levered deep into the hoof.



UNO ALLA VOLTA — ONE AT A TIME

When shortening the heels as close as possible to the 3.5 cm height (measured from where the lateral cartilage dips into the hoof capsule) you may have a problem with the enlarged corium in the heel area. As the heels grew very fast, the sole corium got stretched. The sole got pushed down too fast and the sole corium may now be thicker than usual.
You have to be careful not to make the sole in the heel/bar triangle too thin, as the horse may not want to move on a sensitive sole like that



When you have very high heels you may have to advise the owner about musculature treatment after the trim. As the muscles have been keeping the tendon tight and have been contracted for a long time, they may now be sore or not release at all. More about various possibilities in "Introduction to Complimentary and Supportive Care" (This folder is only available in the full professional student course).