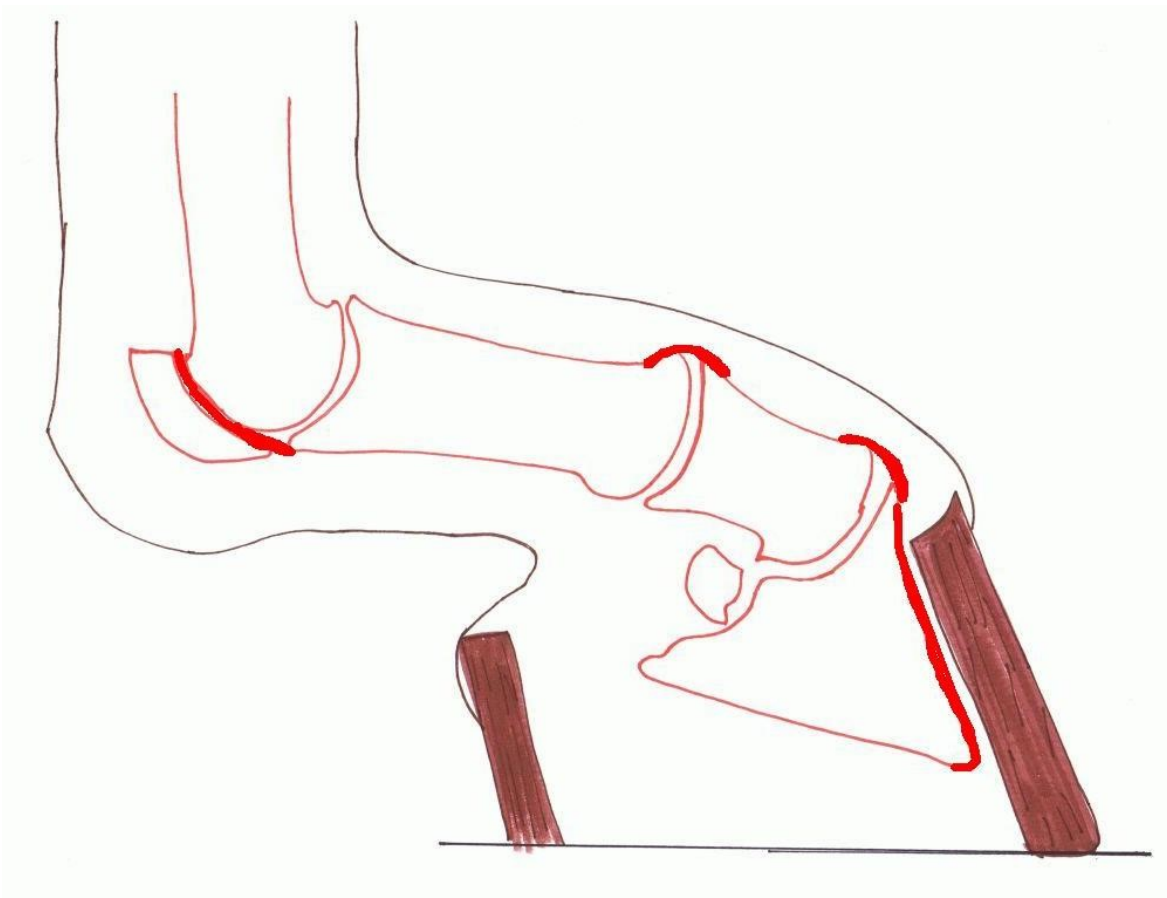
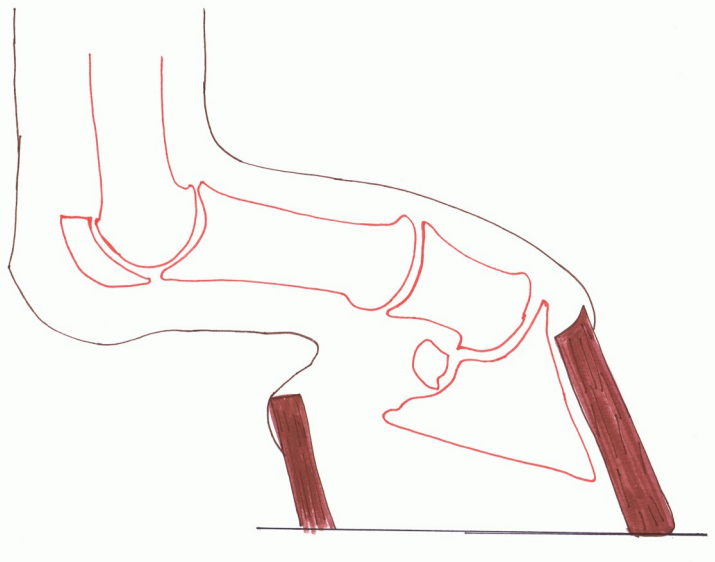




Coonfoot

In a coonfoot the alignment is a different one than in a clubfoot. This situation is also often called "overextended flexor tendon", "long sloping pastern" or "low fetlock". Neither one of these descriptions is correct. The tendon has the same length, but the heel is high and this is one way the horse can escape heel pain. This alignment of the distal bones is often seen in the hind feet of gaited horses.

In a coon foot the heel is high, therefore the tendon would have usually some slack that would have to be pulled up by the muscle. Horses with a weak musculature cannot pull the tendon tight, but by letting the fetlock sink down, the tendon becomes tight without muscular involvement. Ossifications where ligaments insert on to bone are usually the result of the unnatural stresses of this situation



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The pictures show the weak hind end musculature in con footed horses



You can see that this horse has a very weak hind end, which would need a lot of work on a slope in order to strengthen the hindquarters, so that the sunk fetlock can come into a correct alignment again.

Joint adaptation may also be a limiting factor for immediate success. Whenever a joint has adapted and changed already, you must assure "physical therapy", which means a lot of movement on firm, non-concussive ground to restore correct alignment of the joints.

Frequent trimming of the hoof to ensure a tight new growth from the top is important. If your trimming intervals are too long, you are creating a connection that is not tight enough and you will not be able to return the horse to full health.

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If the situation of high heels and a short toe is present for a long time, you will see that the laminar connection starts to suffer and the coffin bone will separate from the hoof wall: Founder!

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