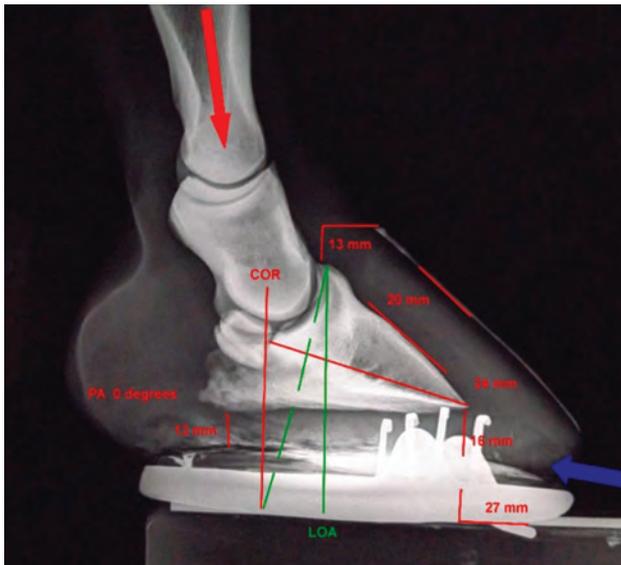


Why is Podiatry Research Important?

The foot of the horse is an organ; a set of tissues that perform a function. Unlike the other organs of the body, this one requires routine maintenance for its health and the longevity of the horse. Unfortunately, the foot lags behind in comprehensive knowledge by the professionals that care for it. This is probably because the other organs of the horse are comparable to the human, but the human doesn't walk on a hoof.



A foot with biomechanical problems.

What do we need to know?

Of utmost importance is biomechanics. Knowing how the foot works provides a lot of answers as to how and why things go wrong and how to correct them. Imbalances cause leverage distortion which leads to vascular and soft tissue compression,

bone lysis, ligament and tendon injuries. Also, Veterinarians, farriers and owners need to know what a good foot looks like. What we accept as a normal looking foot is not always a structurally 'good' foot. A foot that that doesn't grow correctly isn't functioning properly and that could have a consequence on the entire limb.

What does a good foot look like?

- No compression rings. Compression rings are an indication of load stress or imbalances which compress the coronary plexus causing lack of blood perfusion to the tubular and inter-tubular horn.
- The frog/digital cushion is about 65 mm. This can be palpated by placing your thumb between the bulbs of the heel and squeezing the frog.

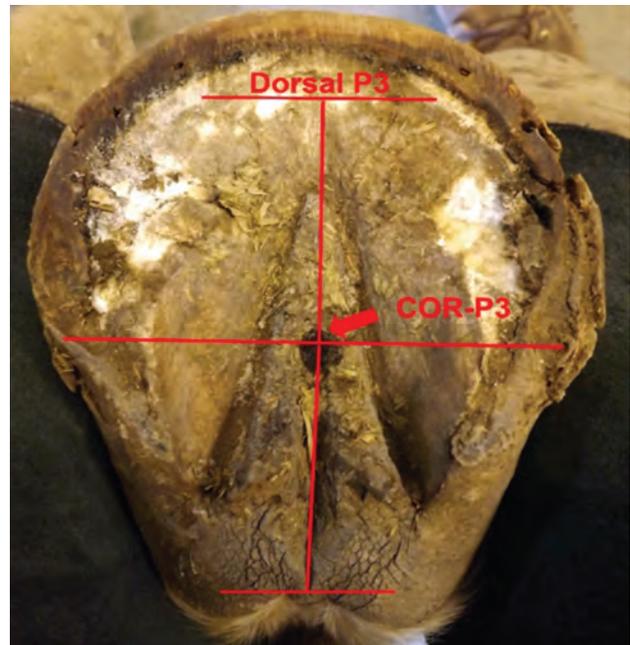


Post shoeing, this foot is 0° in the weight-bearing position.

- The ground surface of the heels are as high as the untrimmed frog and in the same plane as the frog.
- The bottom of the foot from the heels to the toe has a slight radius which allows the foot to break forward as the deep flexor tendon contracts.
- The sole in front of the apex of the frog is hard and dense and does not yield under thumb pressure.
- The bottom plane of the foot from inside to outside is at a 90° plane to the line of the deep flexor tendon which runs along the back of the leg.
- When viewed from the side, the angle of the pastern is negative to the angle of the hoof wall by 5° to 10° and then moves to a 0° axis when extended in the weight bearing position.

The veterinarian and farrier industries lack a compressive evaluation system that evaluates the health of the foot because neither profession have been educated as to what that is. We need peer reviewed studies that can be incorporated into veterinary college and farrier school curriculum.

This is the work we are undertaking here at the Equine Podiatry Education Foundation and we need your help. Please look through our website



Knowing what's inside can help us manage the outside.

and contact us with any questions. Your tax deductible donations will assist in this important work to help horses have longer and more productive lives with less lameness through a better understanding of their foot function and individual needs.

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