



The PERFECT HOOF

Club Newsletter

Official Newsletter Of Performance Hoof Care

READING BETWEEN THE LINES BY ROBYN LA PIERRE, AEP, GM

After reading several posts in the Perfect Hoof Club Forum, I have noticed a trend in how many are coming to understand the Spectrum and how it guides in their efforts of rehabilitation. There have been numerous threads on the forum asking about issues that owners are having with their horses. There appeared to be a common denominator present in each thread, an *overall score* assessing structure as a whole.

What I found by looking further into individual cases is that although an overall score of 4.5 or 5.0 was given, which in Applied Equine Podiatry would warrant a horse being ridden on soft ground and light trails, these individuals were missing the purpose of what the spectrum actually stood for; a way to keep the horse safe.

As you rate your structure, you should be noting each structure's individual score and using each as a way point on a road map. It seems that very few clients are looking closely enough at the scores on *specific structures*, which may be causing them to have "ouchy" feet over certain terrain. Here is an example of what a spectrum may look like for your horse's feet:

Frog: 3.5 Note: deep central sulcus, with infection and contracted.

Angle of the bar (heel): 3.5 Note: somewhat forward, lacking purchase.

Bars: 4.0 Note: somewhat laid over and bent.

Wall: 5.5

Toe: 5.5

Sole: 5.5

Lateral Cartilage: 3.5 Note: upright and weak.

Overall rating for that hoof is a 4.5. However, note how low the frog is, and the bars are laid over as well. You can also assume that with the lateral cartilages being a 3.5 that the internal arch has fallen considerably. You can also expect your digital cushion to be lacking substance as well. If the *individual structures* are not taken into consideration, then you could easily develop a misunderstanding of the overall rating and fall into a false sense of security, thinking that your horse is okay to ride on rougher terrain. This could cause serious damage to the foot.



Recently de-shod foot, showing typical weakness of frog, heels and bars. It is best to evaluate the foot prior to the trim. Your spectrum should reflect values for the trimmed foot. This exercise will help increase your awareness of the foot's potential.

Continued on page 8

Welcome Members to the Club, Robyn and I, along with our dedicated staff, have been working very hard to bring you the latest information on hoof care. This month, we have included the DVD titled "Spectrum of Usability" This DVD, we hope, will help you to better understand how "Whole Horse Hoof Care" effects your horse and its hooves.

This month's featured product is Clean Trax. Hoof Infections are a major cause of lameness. Clean Trax can help eliminate many of these infections. Last month we introduced the "I've Got a Serious Foot Fetish" Tee Shirt, and the "Freedom of Choice" Tee Shirt, and are displayed on the back page of this newsletter. These are fun shirts, selling at a great price.

We have decided to continue to offer our Sole Mates™ pads at last month's price of just \$14.00 a pair. The Sole Mates™ pads regularly sell for \$20.00 pair.

Discounts do not apply to previous purchases or services.

Knowledge empowers the Insightful Horse Owner!

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UNDERSTANDING HOOF INFECTIONS BY ALFRED E. FOX, PH.D.

THE REAL FACTS ABOUT "WHITE LINE DISEASE"

Infections within the horse's hoof are all too common, particularly in warm, moist parts of the United States where some hoof wall infections periodically reach epidemic proportions. Hoof infections are usually either bacterial or fungal in origin, including species of yeast and molds. Among the most prevalent are **white line disease** and **seedy toe**, both fungal infections causing deterioration of the hoof wall and its supporting structures; **thrush**, an underlying yeast infection of the deep sole crevices that becomes complicated by secondary infection with fungus or a specialized bacterium; and **infected abscesses**, which are an invasion of bacteria or fungi into the sensitive tissue. These infections can cause substantial, sometimes permanent, damage to the hoof before they are diagnosed and treated. In addition, commonly applied treatment methods can be very invasive, particularly in advanced, severe cases, resulting in substantial downtime for the animal. Early recognition of the problem and prompt treatment are essential before there is significant deterioration of the hoof that may result in permanent damage.

So-called "white-line disease" is a deterioration of the laminar structures of the hoof resulting from invasion of a fungus that grows where there is moisture, warmth and no air (anaerobic). The fungus prefers to grow on damaged or dead tissue and creates this environment by interfering with the blood supply to developing new hoof tissue as the hoof grows, causing the new tissue to die. This leaves hollow spaces between the layers, providing areas for new fungal growth and eventu-

ally leading to extensive separation of the laminar structure of the hoof. The closer the fungal invasion is to the underlying blood supply of the hoof, the more threat there is to the total hoof structure. Unfortunately, the degeneration that takes place within the hoof wall is usually not visible until substantial damage has been done, making this infection a silent threat to the well being of the animal.

When any fungus grows, it produces thousands of very tiny spores, the seeds from which a new fungal unit will grow. The spores have a thick protective coating on their surface and are very difficult to kill. In fact, they can survive for many years in crevices or in the ground at very cold or very hot temperatures, as long as they are protected from the weather, and are not destroyed by bleach, anti-fungal drugs or most topical solutions commonly used to "treat" fungal infections. Infection of the hoof is usually initiated by contact with the spores for a period of time, as would occur when a horse stands in a stall overnight, facilitating entrapment of the spores under the lower edge of the hoof wall structure. Since the hoof wall is a dynamic structure wherein the laminar layers move as the horse moves, the spores can be worked upward into the hoof between the laminar layers. If the horse later stands for any period of time in mud or muck, the bottom of the hoof wall becomes sealed and moisture can be wicked between the layers, providing an environment that can support "blooming" of the fungus from the spores. When a horse has active fungal disease in its hoofs, it constantly sheds the spores, contaminating areas of sustained contact such as its stall floor or mats, the ground surface where the hoofs are trimmed.

Understanding Hoof Infections and the trailer floor. This results in many sites for re-infection of the animal, transmission of the spores to another foot on the same animal and spread of the disease to other horses. The spores can also be transmitted via the rasp, hoof knife or other tools used to trim or shape the hoof of an infected animal. It should also be noted that the same fungus can attack the hoof structure of any animal and that it can and does cause fungal disease within the finger and toenails of humans.

Since the fungus likes to grow where there is no air, cutting away (resection) sections of the hoof wall and allowing air to get to the site of infection will slow the progress of the disease in that area. However, the spores remain in the laminar layers and, when the conditions are right, they will "bloom" and the disease will recur and spread. In addition, painting substances like iodine on the resected areas, "burning it out" with iodine crystals or applying things like formaldehyde and bleach does not kill the spores throughout the entire hoof, but, instead, damages the exposed hoof tissue and actually provides an environment that can support new fungal growth. The only way to effectively eliminate the disease is to completely eliminate the spores in the layers of all four feet, even if they don't look infected, and in the areas where the horse may have sustained contact with the spores. The best approach to dealing with "white-line disease" is to be really aware of the threat that it poses to the horse and to take some preventative steps.

Continued on next page.

UNDERSTANDING HOOF INFECTIONS CONTINUED ...

Never allow the horse to enter a strange stall without first disinfecting the floor. Applying a commercially available phenol-based (phenol is also called carbolic acid) disinfectant, like Lysol® (the little brown bottle), to the floor, followed by a water rinse, is an effective means to eliminate spores. It will also help to use the same disinfectant periodically in the barn, particularly on those areas where horses' hoofs have repeated, sustained contact. Keeping the animal's hoofs free of debris will not necessarily avoid infection, but it can help to limit growth of the fungus and spread of the disease.

It is wise to get in the habit of periodically picking up your horse's leg and tapping on the outer surface of the hoof with something solid, such as a hoof pick. Any echoing sounds are indicative of separations within the laminar structure. They are an early indication of possible infection and must be dealt with expediently to avoid potentially significant damage. It is essential to immediately apply a treatment that will effectively reach and destroy not only the fungus, but also the associated spores that will be present throughout the animal's hoofs.

Dr. Fox holds a Ph.D. in Microbiology from Rutgers University and, for many years, has worked as an independent consultant to human and animal healthcare companies regarding the design and development of medical products. He is also the President of Equine Technologies, Inc. Dr. Fox has worked with veterinarians and farriers at major universities to develop an understanding of complex hoof infections like "white line disease" and has lectured to

many organizations on the topic.

Clean Trax

Clean Trax is a product that is marketed by Equine Technologies as a deep penetrating hoof cleanser. It is said to be very effective in the treatment of white line disease and other harmful infections of the equine foot.

I have used Clean Trax for over seven years now and have had great success in the treatment of most infections. I will say that you must follow the directions to the letter if you are to expect good results.

If you have any doubt in your mind as to whether or not your horse does have a hoof infection, then take the time to Clean Trax. It will not harm your horse's hooves and it is a good measure of insurance.

Following Dr. Fox's advice on prevention, I suggest that you Clean Trax every six months. You can read more about Clean Trax at www.equinepodiatry.net.



Sept. Special: \$15.00 per bottle.
Super Savings on a Super product!

DAVID LA PIERRE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

KC and Robyn La Pierre are proud to offer the "David La Pierre Memorial Scholarship Fund." This program is designed to furnish aid to one deserving US or International student a year who would like to pursue a career in the field of Applied Equine Podiatry. The Scholarship consisting of a maximum of \$5,000.00 is designed to cover all costs of tuition, on-line modules of study, as well as all tools and recommended reading materials for the First Level Diploma Program.

The field of Applied Equine Podiatry is growing by leaps and bounds. The International Institute of Applied Equine Podiatry and KC La Pierre have designed a First Level Diploma Program that has inspired students across the United States and abroad. KC's teaching style and cutting edge alternatives to the farrier sciences prove to be successful ingredients in the building of a strong career in Applied Equine Podiatry.

If you would like to receive an official "David La Pierre Memorial Scholarship Fund" application, please download both the forms available on our web site at www.equinepodiatry.net. Send both completed forms to: Robyn La Pierre at the International Institute of Equine Podiatry, Inc. 13755 SW 61st Place Road, Ocala, FL 34481
Deadline is Dec 1st, 2006.

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www.theperfecthoof.com

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE & THERAPY FOR LARGE ANIMALS BY JUDITH M. SHOEMAKER, DVM

The purpose of this article is to provide information about complementary medicine and therapies: what they are, how they work, when they are helpful, when they are contraindicated. The term *complementary* is used to indicate that these modalities are an adjunct to allopathic care, not only an alternative. They may provide alternative outcomes, including the avoidance of surgery, reduction in medications needed, and the avoidance of complications in treatment or recovery. It is important to have an understanding of these modalities because of their widespread use, and potential misuse, in treating large animals. They can enhance the quality of care that we can provide and more importantly, they can enhance the quality of life for the animals.

CHIROPRACTIC

Chiropractic is a successful, noninvasive, cost effective technique for treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of much common lameness and illness. Chiropractic is based on manipulation of joints of the spine and extremities to affect optimum function and balance of all structures, in other words, *straightening the hardware so the software can run*. Ninety percent of the input to the nervous system is from joint receptors and stretch receptors in tendons, ligaments, and muscles. The nervous system runs the whole animal; therefore managing the nervous system through these receptors is efficient, accurate care. The spine and extremities of horses can be easily manipulated if the practitioner has appropriate training and skill. Good chiropractic is not violent or uncomfortable. The animals can understand it, enjoy it, and often obtain immediate relief from it.

Chiropractic adjustments may vary between practitioners; there are more than a hundred types of chiropractic techniques, many of which are applicable to animals. The foremost consideration is that the animal is not harmed, as should be the case in all medicine.

Chiropractic care involves *accurate* manipulation of individual

joints through normal planes of motion using high acceleration, short range-of-motion thrust that effects a reset of joint receptors and normalizes joint orientation. The practitioner must have training in both species-specific anatomy and accurate technique. Chiropractic can be very exact in managing the nervous system; sophisticated techniques have far reaching and subtle effects.

Balance in animals is the effective interaction of the nervous system, the frame, and movement with gravity. The interface of the nervous system with gravity is mostly through the feet. The monitors of gravity, the balance regulating mechanisms, are in large part, the upper cervical head-righting reflexes and the temporomandibular joint (the jaw joint). Eighty percent of the aforementioned ninety percent of input to the brain comes from the second cervical vertebra and the joints rostral to it, including the skull. Therefore, appropriate farriery and dentistry are of the utmost importance in maintaining balance and straightness. Two things are not going to change - 100 million years of evolutionary biomechanics and gravity. Dentistry and farriery allow them to interact effectively as they were designed.

Chiropractic is necessary is when an animal is asymmetrical, "dumb", or "crabby". Chiropractic may be helpful after any trauma, toxicity, or stress. Therefore any animal with a history of illness or accident is a potential chiropractic patient. Chiropractic care is best used preventively and as maintenance health care. Evaluation of young animals can minimize the future effects of early life asymmetries and often allow these animals to reach their full potential. The rare horse that does not need chiropractic is usually small, barefoot, short-toed and either very lucky not to have been injured or is an outstanding athlete.

Most painful pathologies - arthritis, degenerative joint disease, back pain, etc. often are *not* primary problems. They are the signs of overuse or hypermobility caused by restriction of normal movement or hypomobility somewhere else in the system.

Chiropractic is the facilitation of appropriate movement of all joints so that all joints share the stresses appropriately. The majority of chronic lameness problems are not injury related but are the result of unbalanced wear and tear. Everything from navicular disease to osselets, hock problems to stifle problems, hip problems and the majority of back problems are almost **always** secondary symptoms of underuse/overuse, compensation for other problems, lack of motion or pain elsewhere in the body.

Normalizing joint function and balance may eliminate the use of anti-inflammatories. Using anti-inflammatories without resolving the cause of joint use imbalances may not be as effective, can shorten the functional life of a joint, and may have other detrimental physiologic effects.

Usual complaints that cause owners to seek chiropractic treatment for horses are proprioceptive problems, stiffness, uneven gaits, stifle or hock problems, sore backs, chronic front foot pain, obscure lameness, training or behavioral problems, poor development, plus a host of more specific problems and diseases. Animals with high stress occupations, or animals with preexisting conditions or conformational problems, may require more frequent adjustments than those needed for maintenance health care. Horses that cannot stand patiently or comfortably for shoeing are potential chiropractic patients as this may be evidence of balance, torque, or strain problems in the system.

Anything that is run by the nervous system can be influenced by chiropractic - musculo-skeletal, digestive, immune, reproductive - all systems can improve with better neurologic function directing them.

Chiropractic care is a systematic way of eliminating structural and neurologic dysfunctions that cause pain, alter performance, cause organic disease, and result in emotional and training problems. Its effects can be profound, long lasting,

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE & THERAPY FOR LARGE ANIMALS CONTINUED ...

It is as important to recognize the practice of poor chiropractic technique as it is to understand good chiropractic work. Manipulation can be dangerous if applied inappropriately, or by an unskilled practitioner. Gross, full body or long lever movements are *not* accurately applied chiropractic, one cannot adjust a neck or withers using a limb, one cannot adjust a spine using a hind leg. Therefore, some spectacular techniques are not necessarily accurate, and any technique that requires joints to go through an unnatural range of motion is potentially career ending for the animal. Slow or rough techniques will cause the patient pain and will create physical and emotional guarding and tension that will limit further adjustment. Inaccurate adjusting can worsen the condition, and unknowledgeable or inappropriate technique can cripple or have no beneficial effect and waste time. Good work will almost always effect noticeable improvement and will be well received by the patient.

Chiropractic is appropriate as adjunctive care for any persistent lameness or training problem, health concerns that do not resolve in a normal manner, and as good preventative health care.

ACUPUNCTURE

Western and Eastern veterinary medicine are very different but complementary forms of health care. They differ in their philosophical and practical view of the mind-body interaction with the world. Western medicine evaluates the external causes and resulting pathologies of illness and concentrates on eliminating these. Eastern medicine focuses on basic body function and the body's reactions to illness and assists these to eliminate or prevent disease.

Acupuncture is an ancient and complex system of medicine. It is widely accepted in the horse industry, mostly for the treatment of back pain, but it is certainly not limited to that. Acupuncture is often an effective treatment for chronic problems of foot

and joint pain, chronic and non-responsive illness, including heart and kidney disease, allergies, heaves, moon blindness, and other immune-mediated problems. Acupuncture can also be effective in modifying behavior.

Acupuncture is the stimulation of specific receptors that modify input to the nervous system and therefore change function. The integration of neurologic information from the body with acupuncture stimulation results in the balancing of Qi, or energy flow, that is discussed in traditional acupuncture theory. Its effect is somewhat analogous to the direction of electricity by the fail-safe computer programs of power companies that ensure that power supply is uninterrupted to utility consumers even under conditions such as storms, increased demand, or equipment failure.

The autonomic nervous system and its reflexes control the defense systems in the body, both internal and external. The neuroendocrine system allows an animal to adapt to changes both inside and out. A primitive part of the nervous system is also involved in the sensing, control and regeneration of damaged tissue and pathologies such as wounds, fractures, early neoplasms, inflammation, etc. Acupuncture can have a profound effect on modifying autonomic function and directing this primitive system. Because the autonomic nervous system of the horse is extremely sensitive, as is evidenced by the fragility of animals in stressful physiologic states such as colic and anesthesia, acupuncture is particularly effective in this species.

With simple acupuncture there are no significant ill-effects; the worst that can happen is that the treatment has little or no effect. No change, however, is rare. Most animals experience a profound endorphin release and appear almost tranquilized while being treated with acupuncture. Physiologic, sensory and motor function can be immediately and sometimes permanently normalized. Acupuncture techniques can be applied by

traditional needles, by aquapuncture (injection of various fluids into acupuncture points), by laser, by pressure, and by electrical and heat stimulation.

MASSAGE

There are many different massage techniques, each with a different approach, including sports massage, myofascial release, cross-fiber friction massage, and cranial techniques. Massage assists normal body function by increasing circulation, facilitating scar release, providing neuro-muscular re-balancing and relaxation.

Massage can be used pre or post competition for performance enhancement. It can be very helpful in reorganizing musculature that has been unbalanced by chronic compensation for pain. For example, many horses with a history of heel pain will not regain normal extension of the anterior stride phase even when the pain is relieved unless chronic muscular contracture of the flexors is released through accurately applied techniques.

Massage is contraindicated if an animal has a fever, if the injury is acute, or if there is an area of bruising. Not only is massage not helpful in those cases, but it can actually be detrimental. A qualified, preferably certified, massage therapist should determine whether massage is appropriate or not.

ELECTROMAGNETIC THERAPY

EMT is the use of electromagnetic fields to stimulate or accelerate blood flow and energy movement within tissues to alleviate inflammation and pain and to allow maximum healing to occur. Two types of devices are common: the pulsed alternating field type (with electrical wiring in the blankets, bandages, or bedding) which are adjustable in strength, frequency, and duration of treatment, and the static type (which utilize small magnets arranged in alternating polarities within the blankets and wraps).

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE & THERAPY FOR LARGE ANIMALS CONTINUED ...

Alternating polarities attract ions in blood and cells increasing fluid flow as well as enhancing ion exchange at the cell membrane level. This increases function at the cellular and vascular level. EMT can make tissues more flexible and less prone to injury. It can be used for maintaining sufficient blood flow for toxin removal and repair after strenuous work in performance animals. The increase in electrical energy flow can also enhance the flow established by acupuncture. In conjunction with other therapy modalities, it can reduce rehabilitation time after surgery. EMT can also be used in healing fractures; it is excellent for treating nonunions.

EMT usually calms and relaxes the animal. A few horses' signs may be slightly worse immediately after treatment - these animals usually have severe postural defects from structural, shoeing, or dental problems resulting in major blockages in the nervous and the circulatory system. These animals often show improvement from the treatment several hours later.

LASER

Cohesive infrared light, or cold laser, can be used to provide energy for cellular metabolism by converting ADP to ATP in the mitochondria, thus facilitating transport of nutrients into and toxins out of cells. It is especially valuable in conditions where the blood supply may be insufficient to support the cells. Laser therapy can keep cells alive and functioning and thus enable these injuries to heal faster, with less scarring.

Laser therapy is most commonly used for wounds and soft tissue healing. It is also useful as a powerful acupuncture tool. It can reduce pain and tension and reset proprioception, thereby normalizing function, and allow horses with non-structural pain, such as grabs and bruising, to move soundly. Laser treatment will not block structural pain such that an animal will unknowingly hurt an injured limb. It is not appropriate to use lasers over infections, tumors, or certain topical

medications, such as furacin, blisters, or liniments, as this may cause an inappropriate increase in circulation and inflammation.

HOMEOPATHY

Homeopathy is electrical informational medicine. A substance that is shown to produce particular signs or symptoms is serially diluted and succussed (vigorously shaken) until there is a very small proportion of the original substance remaining in the solution. It is thought that this "infinitesimal dose", as it is called, contains the electrochemical pattern of the medicinal substance. The science of physics is now beginning to explain the underlying mechanism of the interaction of the body with this electronic signature. Homeopathic remedies are specific for sets of neuronal systems within the body. Activation or deactivation of a specific neuron group creates a spectrum of specific signs and symptoms. Accurate use of remedies can profoundly and quickly change function. A basic tenet of homeopathy is that "like cures like". Because of this, it is often mistakenly likened to vaccination. However, homeopathic remedies differ fundamentally from vaccines. Homeopathic remedies affect the energy of the body in order to stimulate healing and in doing so they strengthen the body's response to a disease-related stress.

Homeopathic case analysis includes subjective information about the patient, which is not considered relevant to the allopathic diagnosis, such as the animals' likes and dislikes, unique behaviors, and the time of day that signs are most prominent. Since homeopathic prescribing is done using a larger spectrum of signs, symptoms and history, astute observation by both the owner and the practitioner is prerequisite for accurate and successful use of this modality.

Homeopathy is best used before pathology is so great that conventional medical intervention is necessary or ineffective. It can be used to alleviate

chronic inappropriate effects of illness, injury, and their treatment.

NUTRITION AND HERBS

Nutrition is fundamental to health. Inappropriate substances or imbalances in the diet can sabotage the best treatment. In recent years, the introduction of more highly processed diets and the lesser quality of forages due to hay production techniques and the reduction of diversity and use of pasture are resulting in nutritional imbalances and chronic diseases in horses much like those seen in small animals and humans eating unnatural diets.

The supplement industry for horses is trying to address these problems, however basic feedstuffs must be of sufficient quality *first*, and unbalanced or excessive supplementation must be avoided. Horses have survived for thousands of years on diverse seasonal grazing and browsing. Functional maintenance of the whole animal is dependent upon not only the ingredients of the feed, but also the activity involved in acquiring natural food, the difference in how it is chewed, the water necessary to process it, the enzymes and bacteria contained in it. These functional components of diet may not be adequately addressed in confinement management, by processed feeds, or feeding practices.

Herbs can be as powerful as synthetic drugs; they contain pharmacological chemicals. Native North and South American and Eastern/Chinese/Ayurvedic herbology are very complex systems of medicine. Herbal preparations can be single or combination herbs. The balance of substances in traditional herbal medicines is fundamental to their efficacy. Indigenous cultural wisdom of herbal preparations and their effects is much more advanced than the models of pharmacologic action that modern science has been able to define. Balanced herbal prescriptions can create effects not achievable with drug management.

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE & THERAPY FOR LARGE ANIMALS CONTINUED ...

Prescribing of herbs by extrapolating from popular human uses may not be safe for animals as they may not respond physiologically in the same way as humans. Knowledgeable veterinary practitioners must be consulted for guidance in the use of these substances. Nutraceuticals are a growing part of the animal nutrition industry. Scientific evidence of the efficacy of nutraceuticals lags behind popular use and anecdotal information. All of the data relating to the effectiveness and possible dangers of these substances must be taken into consideration when using individual or combinations of products.

CONCLUSION

In many situations, good veterinary treatment may involve multiple modalities, including surgery and drug therapy from conventional Western technology, along with complementary techniques to provide more complete and supportive care. This approach often outperforms other methodologies. Once the signs and symptoms have been treated, the health care is not complete until the underlying disease patterns have been reprogrammed. Often through complementary care, both the client and the practitioner, as well as the patient, will be directed to new levels of understanding, health and healing.

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

American Veterinary Chiropractic Association:

www.animalchiropractic.org/

PO Box 563, Port Byron, IL 61275
USA, phone: 309-658-2958,
AmVetChiro@aol.com

Professional certification in animal adjusting.

Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Department of Clinical Sciences, Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine www.vth.colostate.edu/clinsci/ce/acupuncture/index.html

105 Equine Center, Ft. Collins, CO 80523, phone: 970-491-8509

Professional certification in veterinary acupuncture and manual therapies.

International Veterinary Acupuncture Society: www.ivas.org/

P.O. Box 271395, Ft. Collins, CO 80527-1395, phone: 970-266-0666, office@ivas.org

Professional certification in veterinary acupuncture.

The American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture: www.aava.org/

Box 419, Hygiene, CO 80533-0419, phone: 303-772-6726, AAVAoffice@aol.com

National organization for veterinary acupuncturists.

The Veterinary Acupuncture Page: <http://users.med.auth.gr/~karanik/english/veter.htm>

Excellent resource for information.

D'Al School of Equine Massage Therapy: www.serix.com/~darcyinc/equine.htm, phone: 519-673-4420 or 519-673-3965, darcyinc@serix.com
One of very few government recognized certification programs available in equine massage therapy.

Steiss JE. *Magnetic Field Therapy: Theory and Application Principles, in Proceedings. 1st International Symposium on Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy in Veterinary Medicine 1999;51-53.*

The proceedings of this symposium is an excellent resource.

MacLeod G. *The Treatment of Horses by Homœopathy.* London: Eastern Press Ltd., 1977.

A classic homeopathy text.

Castro M. *The Complete Homeopathy Handbook.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

An excellent primer in basic homeopathy, clear and concise explanations.

The Nutraceutical Alliance:
www.nutraceuticalalliance.com/

Organization of manufacturers of nutraceuticals for animals.

A note from KC La Pierre

Applied Equine Podiatry



It is my hope that in the near future, leading experts like Dr. Shoemaker will come to accept Applied Equine Podiatry as a valid complementary medicine. Our efforts to support its practice with evidence based science is on going. Applied Equine Podiatry offers a paradigm for whole horse hoof care where non previously existed. Using the Suspension Theory of Hoof Dynamics as a foundation, and with an understanding that the horse has the innate ability to heal itself, practitioners of AEP can aid the horse in achieving health of foot. Its practice often outperforms the traditional approach to hoof care. Utilizing the Spectrum of Usability will allow the practitioner to define the current state of health and to develop a means to achieve optimal performance.



READING BETWEEN THE LINES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Even though you *can* ride this horse, the above spectrum would lead us to recommend pad walking in hand for 20 minutes a day, coupled with *very light* riding. A sand arena is acceptable if and only when the frog heals and no longer shows evidence of a deep central sulcus; otherwise the sand could easily irritate the frog causing inflammation, which would have a negative effect on the foot.

The Spectrum of Usability is a wonderful tool for rating your horse's feet. However, learning how to interpret the scores is extremely important. Use your Spectrum as a road map and be aware of those red flags which could be the reason for an "ouchy" foot or a foot that just hasn't come around the way you think it should.

If used properly, the Spectrum will be that much more valuable to your rehabilitation process. Being able to interpret

those scores and read between the lines, that is what will help you to understand what the foot is telling you. By understanding theory, you will be able to interpret what is going on inside the foot more accurately. That is Applied Equine Podiatry and laterally thinking.



SPECIAL OFFER EXTENDED

We have been searching for some time to find a way to express our true feelings about our desires to provide the best possible hoof care for our horses. I do believe we have come up with just what the doctor ordered. We are happy to introduce two (2) new tee shirt designs that boldly express the road we have chosen to travel. The "Freedom of Choice" Tee comes in black, with our website imprinted on the back. The "I've Got a Serious Foot Fetish" Tee comes in light pink and also has our web site imprinted on the back. Whether you want to show your support or simply want to have some fun, these shirts fit the bill.

September Special

Still just \$10.00, Order today!

COURSE SCHEDULE

The International Institute of Equine Podiatry offers five day hands on courses in performance hoof care. Below are the remaining dates for 2006, including Expos. All Club Members receive one 10% discount to the balance of one course of their choice.

Sept. 16-20	5 Day Course	Allentown, PA.
Sept 30- Oct 4	5 Day Course	Ocala, FL.
Oct. 11-15	5 Day Course	Berthoud, Co.
Nov. 4-8	5 Day Course	Hitchen, UK

Nov. 17-19 Equestrian Celebration Jacksonville, FL.

Dec 11-15 5 Day Course Ocala, FL.

We invite you to join us in Florida where we will be holding two 5 day courses. The sun is warm, the friendship warmer, and the learning never stops. We have planned something special for those of you that choose to accept the invitation to join us at our home here in Ocala, Florida, the Horse Capital of the world. Now seeking Host for the 2007 calendar year.



THE PERFECT HOOF

Club