

## "A Very Simple Statement About Your Horse"

The thing about a Horse's hoof is understanding that it is much more important, to the overall health of the Horse than we actually think it is. Often I will hear people say that a Horse's hoof is like one of our finger nails. It grows and needs to be trimmed from time to time. Other than that, it really plays no large role in a Horse's life. If only such a simple statement was true. Yet that simple statement tends to do more harm to the Horse than any type of good. The hoof is one of the most important parts of a Horse's overall health condition. There is a statement that is very simple and is actually 100% true and factual. I will tell you that one a little later in this message from one Horse owner to another.

A Horse's hoof is a window into that animal's metabolism and health. The hoof can display everything from vitamin and mineral deficiencies to some serious health issues. I will list some of the more prominent issues and health concerns.

#1 > Founder can be detected and seen many years after the fact in the hoof's white line and in the outside hoof wall.

#2 > Arthritic changes in joints can be noticed by how a Horse walks and shows wear on the hoof.

#3 > Too much moisture can cause foot funguses and diseases.

#4 > Too much dryness can cause cracks and chipping to appear.

#5 > Large rings can appear on the hoof wall to show high fever or severe stress in the Horse's past.

#6 > Improper trimming can lead to tendon stress and joint problems due to poor hoof angles.

#7 > Young Horses under two years of age without regular trimming are prone to later life joint issues.

#8 > Improper placement or wrong type of shoe on the foot can cause lifelong pain due to improper foot to ground placement.

#9 > Not cleaning out the bottom of the hoof on a regular basis can cause poor traction and discomfort.

#10 > There are actually 150 separate things on my personal list! By now you should get the idea!

Horses try to sleep anywhere from 4 to 7 hours in a 24 hour cycle. Parts of this sleep pattern are designed to take place while the Horse is standing up. The Horse has joints in its legs that have a locking type mechanism to help the Horse to stand while being asleep. The fact of this makes the comfort of the Horse's hoof paramount in making sure your Horse does not suffer from sleep deprivation due to discomfort in the hooves. I never have yet met a Horse that did not need some type of hoof care. Maybe something as easy as trim to something as serious as continual ongoing hoof care. Chiropractors that make spinal adjustments on Horses, usually request the Horse's hooves be properly trimmed and balanced. Noticed I wrote "PROPERLY TRIMMED"!

The angle at which Horses hooves are trimmed has got to be the largest of man made mistakes that Horses have to endure. There are guide lines and even measuring devices that cost about as much as one trimming that help to prevent this. Yet the overwhelming majority of Horses in this country go without the proper hoof trimming. I wish I could give you a valid reason why this is so. I have no good reason to write, or even some kind of logic to put to this issue. You as the Horses owner are responsible for your Horses health. Yes you pay good money to people who are suppose to do things correctly, yet you still bear the burden of final responsibility for any wrong decisions or health risks.

The point of this issues article is to bring to the forefront the fact that a Horse's hoof is not just a fingernail that can be trimmed from time to time. I am hoping that my mentioning this to you, will spur your interest to look deeper and with more conviction as to the health and importance of your Horses hooves. As for that simple statement I said was 100% true and factual.  
NO HOOF, NO HORSE! It is just that simple and serious.

**By BJ Rickard – The World OF Horses – Stall13.com**  
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