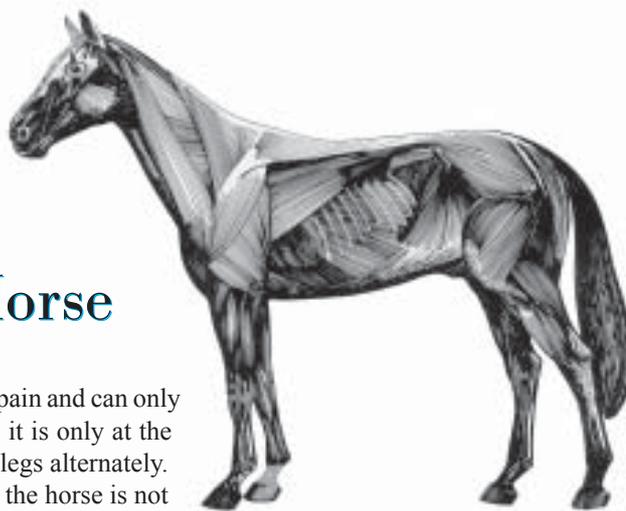


VET CORNER

The Management Of Lameness In A Horse



What is Lameness?

Lameness is an alteration in a horse's gait, usually as a result of pain and can only be properly assessed by watching a horse trot. This is because it is only at the trot that the horse normally takes its weight evenly on all four legs alternately. Take care, therefore, not to treat a problem lightly just because the horse is not lame at the walk and/or the canter.

Most lameness is caused by foot problems but it is worth bearing in mind that lameness can be associated with pain in other parts of the body besides the legs and feet. Back problems, for example, can cause a horse to go unsound as it compensates for the pain in its back by using an uneven stride.

Exercise and the Lame Horse

When a veterinary surgeon has diagnosed the cause of lameness, he will usually want to place some restrictions on the amount of work which the horse is allowed to do. The amount of work a lame horse is allowed to perform may be quantified as follows:

Complete stable rest

This is applicable for very painful conditions. The horse should remain in its stable for 24 hours a day and not be taken out at all.

Stable rest

As the horse improves it can be led out at the walk for approximately 5 minutes

twice a day, helping to prevent the formation of adhesions in the muscles and tendons. For the rest of the time it stays in the stable.

Leading out only

The horse can be given longer periods of exercise at the walk but still without the weight. Of a rider on its back.

Walking out only

The horse can be ridden again but only at the walk.

Lungeing

The horse can be worked in circles on a lunge rein at the walk, trot and canter.

Light work

The horse can be ridden

once or twice a day at the walk or trot.

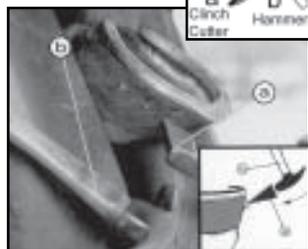
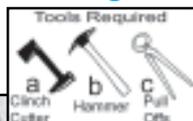
Slow work

This usually refers to the fact that the horse is given slow canters rather than galloping. Race horses (for example) are given slow work on most days and just gallop a couple of times a week during training.

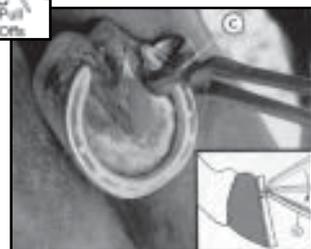
This Series of articles is provided as a guide to the management of lameness, it does not in any way replace the advice of your farrier or veterinary surgeon. "Produced Duphar Veterinary Limited."

TIPS FOR SAFE HORSESHOEING

1 Removing The Shoe



Straighten or break Clinch.



Start at one heel & slowly lever off one shoe.



Repeat on other side, continuing leverage in line of shoe.

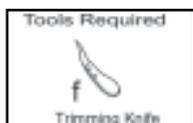


Alternate from side to side while moving towards toe.

SERIES # 1

Compiled By HORSE TIMES

2 Cleaning & Preparing Hoof



Trim ragged edges of frog.



Clean sole to solid, shiny surface.



Create shief, above white line, to guide nippers or knife.