The Hoof Redevelopment Center

A Division of Horses In Symmetry Farrier Services
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The photos below show a horse with feet very similar to Skippy. The photos to the left are taken at first shoeing, which was 4 months prior to shoeing photos shown to the right. While there is still work to be done, Feet are greatly improved.

Plate #1

Notice that Plate #2 shows less bending (flaring) of walls than on Plate #1

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Both photos taken pre-shoeing

Plate #2

Plate#3

Note that Plate #4 shows less delamination of walls (blackened areas around perimeter of wall, sole junction, what has become known as "White Lines Disease") than on Plate #3.This is extremely important to health and comfort of the foot and the limb above.

Plate #4

Also note on the Plate #4 above, that the bar area to the right is becoming less bent and stands more upright than it was on Plate #3. The area from frog to wall is also more evenly distributed from left to right on Plate #4 than on Plate #3. These are all things that are extremely important to the strength of the hoof capsule. Making it able to properly absorb concussion in a balanced manner.

When comparing the photos on last page with the following photos of Skippy's feet, you can readily see that there is considerable work to be done to get these feet to a state of dynamic equilibrium.

In all these photos of Skippy's feet you can readily see large areas of delamination (blackened, torn, lines of hoof wall). You can also readily see that like in the horse on previous page, there is a bending of the bars at various levels on all feet. The LF and RH show redness in the sole indicating that P-III is setting oblique to the hoof capsule and crushing against the sole in those areas.

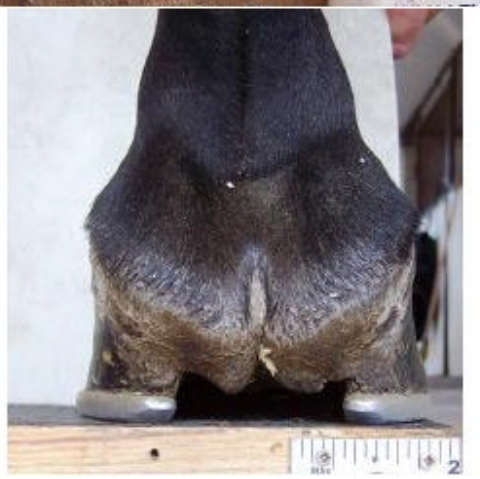
If you look at the posterior (rear) portion of the frogs, you can see that the left and right portions are not the same. This further indicates that P-III is loading obliquely inside the hoof capsules.

If you look at RF and LF you will see that the frog appears to not point to the center of the hoof at toe. This indicates that the hoof capsule is rotating laterally (toward outside of limb) around P-III in an attempt to compensate for the Oblique loading of P-III More so on RF than LF

Skippy's Right Front foot shows considerable jamming of the hairline (wavy areas) and flaring of the toe region. If you study the two photos you will see that the two sides of foot do not match in the way they are distorting. This is only one more sign of the oblique loading of P-III

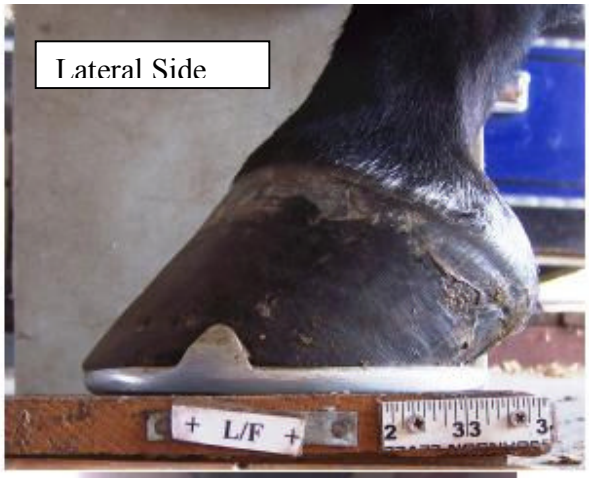
The flaking of the bottom of wall just behind the clip is the area of delamination that we saw on last set of photos. The ridges on walls show us further jamming of laminae and have created the delamination on that area that we saw on last set of photos.

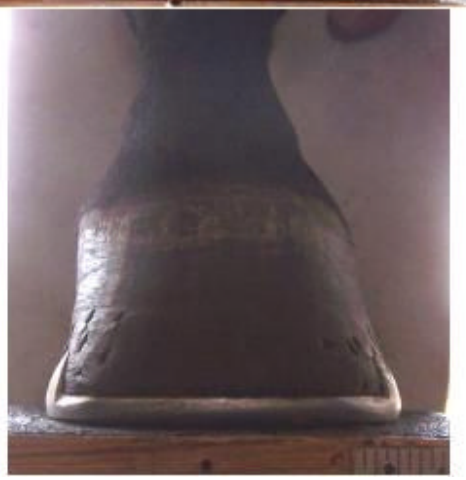
It is important to note here that these feet have taken a long time to get to this point. It is not a reflection of the results of the last shoeing.

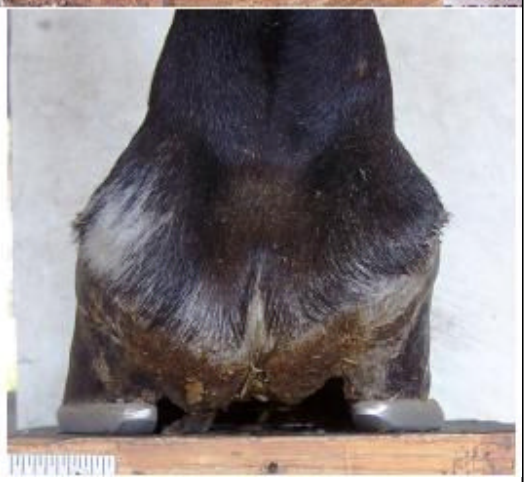


The bottom photos show considerable bending (flaring) of the walls in the quarters of the hoof capsules. This flaring is a result of the delamination of the quarters of those regions. On the photo to the left above, you can see that the left (lateral wall) toe wall is flared worst than the medial (right wall) toe wall. This is how the foot adapts to the oblique loading of P-II by rotating laterally.

On the Left Front, we see many of the same concerns that we see on the Right Front (last set of photos)
Of interesting note here is that while the lateral side of the RF showed the most jamming (ridges) the LF shows the most jamming on the medial side. This would indicate that the horse is landing hard to the right as a protection mechanism; in order to find maximum comfort.







While we see much the same type of distortion (flaring) on this foot as we do on the RF, it is not as pronounced on this (LF) foot. Again showing that the horse is taking more load on right foot than left foot.

In my opinion, these feet have been carrying load improperly for a considerable amount of time. The horse has adjusted it stance and way of going to compensate for those load discrepancies. The rear feet (in particular the RH) are adjusting as well, and that is evident with the sole photos on page two above.

Not knowing the hoof capsule growth rate of this specific horse makes it impossible to tell you with any degree of accuracy how long it will take to bring these feet back into proper dynamic balance. Nonetheless, in the past I have seen feet such as this become reasonably close in 4-6 months. Those horses have been considered sound by the second shoeing. There is no reason to make me think that these feet will be different than those I have worked on previously.

It is also my opinion, that the problems I see in these hoof capsules could very well produce the lameness issues that you have explained that you have been dealing with. Given, that the Veterinarians in charge have found no definitive answer to your lameness issues via x-rays etc, I feel that the outcome should be favorable given the regime that I plan on following with this horse.

Respectfully submitted; February 11, 2008
Martin D. Kenny C.J.F. R.J.F.