

FLARES ARE YOUR BIGGEST ENEMY

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5th Annual International Hoof-Care Summit
Hosted by American Farriers Journal



ARE FLARES NORMAL?

- Do some horses “just have flares”?
- Are some horses born with flares?

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A ‘NORMAL’ FLARE



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Flares in the hoof
are the single
most common cause
of
LAMENESS



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WHAT CAUSES FLARES?



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Flare can result from injury



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Flares can result from neglect



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Flares can result from poor conformation



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Flares can result from unbalanced trimming



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FLARES CAN RESULT FROM

- INJURY
- NEGLECT
- POOR CONFORMATION
- UNBALANCED TRIMMING



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WHAT ARE THE RESULTS FROM NOT CONTROLLING FLARES IN THE HOOF?



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Flares can cause hoof wall distortion



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Flares can cause gait problems



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**Flares
can lead to
deviation
in the
flight pattern
of the hoof**



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Flares cause:

- **FORGING**
- **DISHING**
- **PADDLING**
- **OVER-REACHING**



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**Flares can cause uneven
heels which result in pain**



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Flares can cause cracks



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**Toe flares can cause
quarter cracks**



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**Flares can result in
long term problems**



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Toe flares can cause collapsed heels



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Flares can cause cracks & hoof wall separation



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Flares can cause hoof wall separation



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Hoof wall separation can lead to dropped soles



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Flares can cause abscesses



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Flares can cause Seedy Toe



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FLARES
cause
HOOF WALL SEPARATION
which leads to
SEEDY TOE



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Flares can cause Seedy Toe



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HOOF WALL SEPARATION
leads to
ABSCESSSES
which lead to ...
SEEDY TOE



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Recurring abscesses are usually the result of unresolved flares



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Flares from uneven pressure at the ground surface can cause coronary band distortion



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Note coronary band distortion above quarter clips



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Flares can result in distorted coronary bands



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Flares can cause bruising



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This bruising is often unseen in a black hoof



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Flares can cause under-run heels



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Flares can affect the frog function



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The frog MUST contact the ground surface



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Flares can cause PAIN



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The pain is from twisted joints



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Flares can cause pain in the feet and the back



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Note the difference after balancing the feet



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Extreme flares can cause collapse of the hoof capsule



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Extreme flares cause long term problems



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Note bruising at toe and distortion at heel



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A long term problem remains



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SUMMARY- FLARES CAN CAUSE

- HOOF WALL DISTORTION
- GAIT AND ACTION PROBLEMS
- UN-LEVEL HEELS
- HEEL SORENESS
- HOOF CRACKS



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FLARES CAN CAUSE

- QUARTER CRACKS
- HOOF WALL SEPARATION
- DROPPED SOLES
- ABSCESSSES
- SEEDY TOE



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FLARES CAN CAUSE

- CORONARY BAND DISTORTION
- BRUISING
- PAIN
- BACK PAIN
- LONG TERM PROBLEMS



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HOW TO MANAGE FLARES



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**The ground surface
of the hoof
should be the
same shape as the
'ideal' Coronary band**



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**The WHITE LINE
is the
TRUE map
in the bottom of the hoof**



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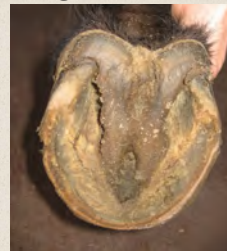
**EVERY method to change
the ground bearing edges
of the hoof capsule
CONTRARY to the shape
of the coronary band will
ultimately have a COST to
the horse's mobility**



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**ELIMINATE ALL FLARES,
EVEN SMALL FLARES**



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**Bars and flares must be
kept under control**



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Bars & flares removed



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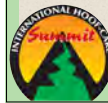
Don't make shoes to fit flares



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WRONG- Oversize shoes catering for the flares



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WRONG - Incorrect shaped shoes catering for flares



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After balancing the feet



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WRONG - Hoof trimmed, but flare unresolved



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CORRECT -Control the flare



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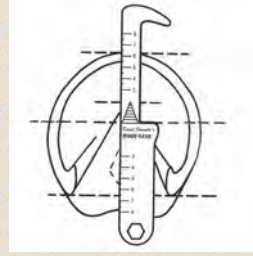
Maintain an EVEN thickness of hoof capsule



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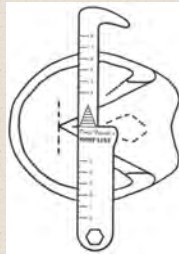
Always check the balance



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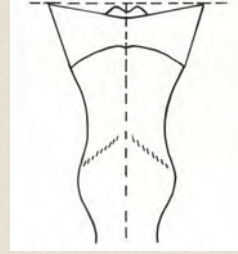
Always check medial lateral balance



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Always check for a T-square at the heel



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Add a shoe for stability



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Control the bottom 1cm of the flare



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**This is “Farming the hoof
for tomorrow”**



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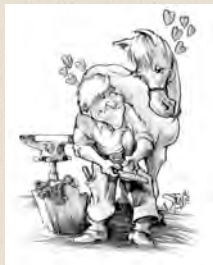
***Don't allow flares
to take hold –
they will ultimately
let the horse down***



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Thank you



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