

## Hoof Problems - Corns

Additional tasks for the farrier include dealing with injured and / or diseased hooves. Application of special shoes and corrective, therapeutic techniques can be applied according to demand. In cases of horses with certain diseases or injuries, special reparative procedures may be needed for the hooves, and then special shoes may need to be produced and fitted.

**Corns** in horses are a type of bruise. A bruise is a hoof trauma injury that is caused by shocks and / or blows. Generally it appears reddish because of damaged tissues and blood vessels. In particular corns emerge on the seat of corn which is the area in between the hoof wall and the bars. Corns can be stand alone dry bruises or become moist or infected.

The causes of horse corns are improper horse shoeing, incorrect shoes or tight fitting. Another cause is leaving the shoes for too long and / or a shoe that has become twisted or turned on the foot for some reason. Aside from the pressure created by the shoes, dirt and debris may also find their way in between the shoes and the sole. This can further increase corn formation and bruising. If a corn becomes infected, pus may form. Horses that work in hard or uneven terrain may be more prone to corns.

In some instance overlooked corns may compel a horse to move differently, preferring not to hit the heels with each step, furthermore a horse may hesitate to make long strides or move quickly because pressure on the heels will cause certain pain. Lameness in a horse with corns may be more pronounced on hard ground. Pressure applied with a hoof tester may cause the horse some tenderness and this test will be indicative. Under rated corns conditions can induce the horse to acute (sharp) or chronic (continual) lameness, the horse movements can be between barely perceptible to non-weight bearing.

