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The Harmful Effects of Shoeing

(The following information was provided by Dr. Hiltrud Strasser and Ms. Sabine Kells--used by permission)

1. Walls cannot wear & maintain normal shape/length
 - unnatural stresses on hoof as walls get too long
 - incorrect trim cannot be worn away
2. Vibration (800 Hz)
 - destroys hoof wall and tissue
 - causes structural abnormalities in laminar corium, leading to compromised coffin bone suspension
 - causes irritation of ligament & tendon attachments to periosteum of bones & joint cartilage
3. Hoof mechanism is impaired
 - reduced shock absorption with fixation of the wall
 - impact travels up leg & stresses joints, etc.
 - ossifications
 - coffin bone impacts sole which cannot draw flat
 - circulation in the hoof is reduced
 - heart is overstressed (without support from hooves)
 - poor cell nutrition & reduced temperature
 - reduced cell metabolism
 - reduced horn quality and quantity
 - excessive waste metabolic protein unused in hoof production remains in bloodstream
 - overstraining of kidneys, liver, skin
4. Physical trauma (bruising, etc.) to hoof tissues
5. Weight causes unnatural strains on joints & ligaments through centrifugal effects
6. Traction compromised: too little on smooth, slick terrain, too much on softer ground
7. Deformation & contraction of the hoof
 - heel pain or "navicular syndrome"
 - thrush
 - skeletal & muscular stresses, conformational changes
8. Negative effects of nails
 - physical damage to wall (holes)
 - dehydration of white line horn
 - vibrations affecting horn & corium
 - insulation breached (metal conducts cold into foot, decreasing corium temperature and cell metabolism)
9. Danger & severity of injury increased
 - to the horse itself (caught in wire, interference, etc.)
 - to people

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- to other horses

10. Damage to properties, trails, etc. increased dramatically

11. Prevents proper development of young horse's foot & coffin bone (especially palmar processes)

12. Orthopedic possibilities do not exist (circulation is reduced, while healing requires increased circulation)

13. "Incorrect" shoeing increases rate & severity of damage

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