



Red Anvil LTD
Tell 01264 737 205
Mobile 07834 551357
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Corns

Definition & Classifications

A Corn is the rupture of the blood vessels in the area of the foot known as the seat-of-corn. It is caused by the Palmar Processes of the Distal Phalanx (Pedal Bone) compressing the underlying sensitive structures against the wall, the blood leaks down through the horn and is seen as a mark within the seat of corn. These are more common in the fore feet on the medial aspect as there is more weight passing through the area.

There are 3 types of corn **Dry, Wet & Suppurating.**

Dry Corn

A dry corn is has no inflammation or infection and is seen as a deep red discolouration due the blood tracking through the horny sole.

Wet Corn

A wet corn has localized inflammation of the area and is more severe than a dry corn. When the corn is paired away there is serum visible.

Suppurating Corn

This is the most serious corn as it has become infected, that can be seen as black discharge when paired away. This will required Veterinary treatment.

Anatomy

The Anatomy involved with corns is the

- Seat of Corn
- Palmar Processes of the Distal Phalanx
- solar plexus

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Causes

The main causes for Corns are Poor Conformation, Poor Irregular Farriery & Concussion.

Conformation

Horses with poor conformation can be pre disposed to corns due to the uneven loading of the hoof capsule.

Poor Irregular

Poor Irregular farriery can contribute to corn in several ways

- Shoes being left on to long
- Short Heel Fit
- Not Easing the Seat-of Corn when trimming
- Medial/Lateral imbalance
- Stone Carriers

Concussion

Excessive concussion caused by road work & hard ground can also be a contributing factor to a horse developing corns. Hunters and polo ponies must be carefully managed to prevent corns,

Clinical Signs

- Deep red discolouration of the seat-of-corn
- lameness
- Heat and pain within the heel area (reaction to hoof testers)

Diagnosis

This is based on the Clinical Signs

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Treatment

Farrrier Treatment is aimed at releasing the pressure being placed on the seat-of-corn, with factors such as short heel fit, overlong shoeing intervals, & Medial/Lateral imbalance the treatment can be resolving these factors by correctly trimming the feet and easing the seat of corn and fitting a shoe with plenty of length and width. Although this can be difficult with horses that preform fast work or are used in poor ground, in these situations negotiations must be carried out to find the optimum heel fit.

Shoeing

Shoes that can aid in the relief of pressure over the seat of corn include a standard Corn Shoe, A Bar Shoe & a Set heel shoe.

Prognosis

The Prognosis is normally good once the cause has been removed, but this will be guarded if there is a deep seated infection.

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