

AMERICAN

FARRIERS JOURNAL™

The Hands-On Magazine For Hoof-Care Professionals

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may be difficult since training; balance experience of horse and rider and athletic ability of the horse can all come into play.

A farrier can help prevent bruising to the dorsal wall by making sure any abnormal hoof conformation such as hoof capsule dishing, flaring, elongated toe, under-run heels or medial to lateral imbalances are corrected. Getting the trim and/or shoe under the bony column will help support the limb and potentially reduce hoof and foot problems.

— *Richard A. Maysomann, VMD, Ph.D.*
and *Sara Austin, DVM 2010,*
Raleigh, N.C.

A: Dorsal hoof wall bruising is usually noted in white feet due to the color differential. The bruising is staining of the wall extratubular region by hemoglobin from damaged or disrupted capillaries located in the lamellar region of the hoof or at the coronet.

The damage could be due to injury to the hoof wall or as a result of overload injury to a portion of the wall, lamellar interface or wall instability. A lot of bruising is probably due to injury to the vascular coronet and grows distally and becomes evident as the hoof wall emerges from the periople region. Abnormal nail and shoe placement is a possible source of wall bruising.

Shoering to prevent the hooves from forging will reduce the incidence of bruises. Shoering to reduce moment arm forces (levers) to the lamellar interface (wall-laminae-distal phalanx) or to more evenly disperse the ground reaction and weight forces along this interface should help reduce bruising.

— *Mike Stewart, DVM,*
Shawnee, Okla.

This continuing series features veterinarians commenting on a question sent in by an *American Farriers Journal* reader. If you have a question, we'd like to pass it on to our panel. Send it to *American Farriers Journal*, P.O. Box 624, Brookfield, WI 53008-0624. Or fax: (262) 782-1252 or e-mail: info@lfsespub.com

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