

# *white line disease*

a case study on WHITE LINE  
DISEASE and WHY the small  
problems matter

*Because no-one likes a smelly crack*



**THE** **HOOFCO**

# Healthy Hooves Go the Distance

## *Recognising common hoof pathology*

Hooves do not magically get healthy and pathogen free and stay that way, unfortunately.

As a Hoof Care pro I've often wished for this as it certainly would have saved my back over the years.

### Building Healthier Hooves

Hooves grow approx. 1cm per month, even more if the horse is in full work. For example, my endurance horses when working in 80km rides and training were growing a new hoof capsule every 5 months – that's a lot of rapid change if not maintained.

Weather changes, feed and pastures change, environment changes, workload changes – all affect hooves. If we aren't paying attention for a week or so, we could find ourselves needing to sort out some

Hoof Funk of our own.

So, what are we looking for when start out on our quest to "Build Healthier Hooves"?

In this issue we will focus on WHITE LINE DISEASE and run through a case study with you on a 28 year old Thoroughbred Gelding.



**"Hoofmanship" should be part of your daily "horsemanship" routine.**

**Just as we check our horses over daily as we feed out their ration, brush and generally fluff about looking after them, we should also be following a strict hoof health routine which at the very least means picking their feet clean daily.**

# big gaping holes

## WHITE LINE DISEASE

Seedy Toe Run Wild

If you've ever seen a horse with chronic white line disease, you would probably take those small deviations in the laminar more seriously.



I think most owners underestimate how much our domestic horses struggle with environmental conditions they are subject to.

Domesticated hooves NEED constant and consistent attention by a hoof care provider and owners to maintain soundness and keep the pathogens at bay.

The hoof above has been attended to by a farrier. Horse recently had his shoes removed as the owner wanted to try hoof boots for riding because "the shoes kept falling off"

For severe cases like this,  
we refer to them as  
"BIG GAPING HOLES"

# big gaping holes continued

## The back story of this hoof and how we BUILT HEALTHIER HOOVES

January 2017

Called out to trim and boot fit this horse as the owner had recently discovered hoof boots (via another client).

I arrived to find some hooves in despair. The hoof care professional who had been in attendance (regularly) said this issue was nothing to worry about he just had "shitty thoroughbred hooves" and he "gets around ok".



January 2017

The near fore quickly got my full attention. The hoof was distorted, bulging laterally and there was a huge empty cavity of ongoing infection present.



January 2017

Solar view. Compromised hoof wall, distorted heel pressure, stretched laminar, big gaping hole.

Well to me, this is somewhat of an emergency, not just "nothing to worry about".



# more big gaping holes

January 2017

A huge cavity of ongoing infection. There is no better option than to remove the dead tissue by opening up the area (resection) and putting a management plan in place for this horse.

After the owner got over the shock of learning more about White line disease and the fact that this was NOT an issue that occurred overnight, she agreed to be up for the challenge of working with me on this by implementing a plan of management sticking to it.

We had a plan and now it was time to get to work.



January 2017

Starting to open up and resect the hoof wall to cut right back to and resemblance of healthy tissue.



# big gaping holes con't



January 2017

What we were left with at the initial trim. This has been an ongoing problem for this horse.

The white line infection had spread through to the toe as well and you can see from the lateral view below that the laminar and wall connection is extremely compromised.



January 2017

TIME TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN

- HOOV SOAKS 3 x WEEKLY in [Hoof Mate WHITE LIGHTNING](#)
- In between soaks, topical application of my (then) version of [Beeswax BLUE](#) and [Hoof Spray](#) in between [hoof soaks](#) - RELIGIOUSLY applied daily if not twice per day.

# more big gaping holes

February 2017

Weekly checks, moved into fortnightly then and after 5 weeks I was confident we were heading in the right direction, all unhealthy tissue had been removed and thoroughly disinfected with the topical application plan. We were able to move to checks once per month and the hoof was starting to form new tissue and much healthier connection.



May 2017

Owner dedication and commitment to the topical management plan is the KEY



# big gaping holes con't



OCTOBER 2017

9 MONTHS later we had a healthy connection from coronet to ground level. Was cause for a bit of a celebration.

The owner got her HOOF BOOTS and started to hit the trails.



OCTOBER 2018

The horse continues to stay pathology free. Is building a thicker more robust hoof wall, the coronet band is relaxed and the horse is much happier and still out trail riding in his hoof boots.

OH, did I mention the horse at the time of this case study was 28 years old and STILL managed to BUILD A HEALTHIER HOOF



# Good hoofmanship is great horsemanship.

If you take away ANYTHING from this quick & dirty introduction to what can go VERY WRONG with your horse's hoof health, let it be

*great hoof health comes down to great hoof maintenance and early intervention.*

- MAINTENANCE - take ownership of your horses' hooves, diet and environment.
- PREVENTION - use simple, effective products to ensure cleansing and prevention of issues flaring into major problems.
- EARLY INTERVENTION - always be on top of any small hoof infection before it creates lameness.
- COMMUNICATION - with your Hoof Care provider. Ask questions, take an interest in hoof health and follow any recommendations they have to share with you.
- EDUCATION - take the opportunity to educate yourself from professionals who take an interest in helping you help your horse. Discard internet advice from non-professionals who have probably never trimmed a hoof let alone dealt with major hoof problems successfully.

# More than just a great set of balls!

*Julie Wright*

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(Formerly Bare Equine Australia)  
Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy  
Certified Equine Myofunctional Therapist

How did I get here ... blue balls, pink bits, and smelly cracks seem a LONG way from the list of professional certifications I've earned.

And as much fun as I have with my social sites, believe me when I say I take "hoofmanship" and hoof care very seriously.

I have spent the best part of the last 2 decades under horses, initially working as an Equine Myofunctional Therapist (massage), realising how many damaged hooves there were on the horses I was working on. I was nothing but a band-aid and could give them a good rub – but their posture and upper body issues were due to their hooves. Thankfully my brilliant lecturer was a hoof nerd too so I turned to her for advice and support. So off "down under" I went looking to learn more.

I never really wanted to be a Hoof Care Pro, I just wanted healthier hooves for my own horses and to work out if I could assist owners more in my Equine Massage business. Too late – I was hooked and off Endurance riding on my barefoot horses and getting asked lots of questions about hooves along the way.

I attended every hoof clinic I could from local and overseas lecturers. Asked questions, mulled over new insights, and inspected every hoof I could. Then it started – "will you trim mine?" led to LOTS of hooves to trim, fewer horses being massaged as my passions changed focus due to my increased knowledge.

Hoof Boots took off with some great new designs being released around 2005/6 in Australia. This saw me outfitting Hoof Boots as well as being Australia's first mobile Hoof Boot fitter with the Easycare, Inc. range.

The Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy was introduced to Australia in the late 2000's. I attended in 2010 and completed the following year after presenting my case studies for evaluation.

I always had a keen interest in topical hoof treatments. There just weren't any easily accessible for my clients. I have really kept them in mind when formulating our range. Products need to be easy to use, not messy and most of all, stay put and be effective to reduce their time needed to be re-applicating.

It's so rewarding to be able to help customers assess hooves and know our products are not only safe & gentle to sensitive structures, but extremely effective too. I wish I had our full line to carry with me years ago to provide my clients with an easy on the spot solution to their hoof problems.

You can find our solutions to common problems here: [www.thehoofco.com.au](http://www.thehoofco.com.au)

