

## The Hoof Redevelopment Center

A Division of Horses In Symmetry Farrier Services

**Martin D. Kenny C.J.F. R.J.F.**

375 T. Johnson Rd. Carthage, NC 28327

Phone: (910) 947-9476

E-mail: [martin@thehoofcenter.com](mailto:martin@thehoofcenter.com)

Web Site: [www.thehoofcenter.com](http://www.thehoofcenter.com)

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This document is being presented to you as a courtesy in an effort to share a portion of the research being done at The Hoof Redevelopment Center. It is not the author's intention to show how the results are achieved with this document. If further information is desired please contact me using the above information.

I have been shoeing since January of 1973 and during that time had been frustrated with my (and the industry's) inability to *reverse* distortions in the hoof capsule of the horse. I had the knowledge and skills needed to *deal* with them, but not to be able to reverse them.

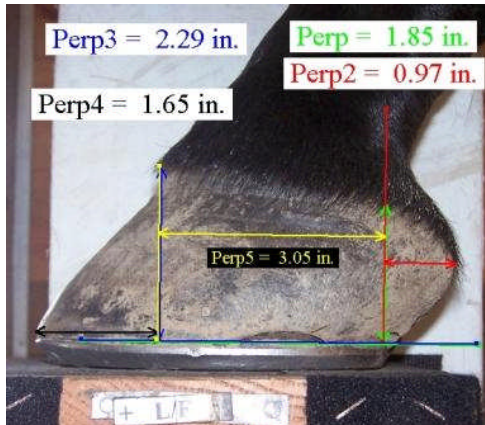
To that end, I undertook over 10 years of time to study the foot in terms of **physics instead of geometry** and by doing so, have come to understand the hoof capsule in a unique manner.

The key to reversing distortion of the hoof capsule is understanding physics. For too long, our industry has looked at cadavers for answers to alignments of structures (or lack thereof) with little regard to how they interact in the live horse. As Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> law of motion states, "For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction." That being the case, it is hard to understand much of what we *profess* happens in the hoof capsule.

To give an example. We profess that a long toe creates a short low heel by the following process. The toe (ground surface) migrates forward, and the heel (ground surface) is pulled forward with it producing the classic "*long toe low heel*" in the horse.

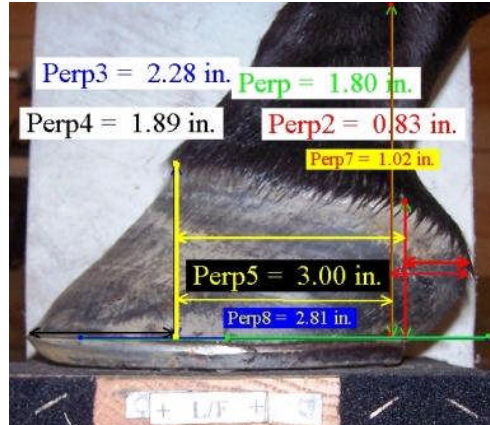
My research proves that this is not the case, and using Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> law, you can readily understand why the process **is not as we profess**.

I have provided two photos below that will assist in understanding that as the toe migrates forward (at ground surface), the heel (at hairline) migrates **rearward** providing us with an appearance of the ground surface of the heel pushing forward. The foot does not have a "run under heel" but a "**over run heel**." It is crucial to understand this if we are to ever produce consistent results in reversing feet of this type.



**PLATE #1**

This photo is May 11<sup>th</sup> pre shoeing  
Foot wearing #2 St. Croix Eventer® shoe



**PLATE #2**

This photo is August 31<sup>st</sup> pre shoeing  
Foot wearing #4 St. Croix Eventer®

Let's analyze the numbers on these two photos.

Perp 3 on each is the vertical toe measurement

Plate #2 is 100% of Plate #1

Perp 4 on each is horizontal distance from vertical at toe to the dorsal end of base

Plate #2 is 115% Plate #1

Perp on each is vertical measurement at the palmer end of base

Plate #2 is 97% of Plate #1

Perp 2 on each is horizontal distance from Perp line to palmer aspect of hoof capsule

Plate #2 is 86% of Plate #1

Perp 5 on each is horizontal distance between Perp 3 and Perp .

Plate #2 is 98% of Plate #1

Perp 7 on Plate #2 is the horizontal distance from a vertical line that corresponds to the location of Perp on Plate #1 in respect to the pastern of the horse irrelevant to the hoof capsule itself.

When comparing Perp on Plate #1 to that of Perp #7 on Plate #2 we see that Perp#7 is 105% of that of Perp on Plate #1

Perp 8 on Plate #2 is the horizontal distance between

Perp 7 (as described above) and Perp 3.

When comparing Per 8 on Plate #2 to that of Perp 5 on Plate #1

We see that Perp 8 is 92% of that of Perp 5 on plate #1

Analyzing further (by adding up horizontal measurements) we see that the total horizontal base of Plate #1 is 4.70 in. and Plate #2 is 4.89 in.. When looking at the horizontal length of the actual hoof capsule from base at Dorsal extreme of the toe to the Palmer extreme of the hoof capsule (heel bulb region). We see that this comes to an AP measurement of 5.64 in on Plate #1 and 5.72 in on Plate #2. [This would indicate that Plate #1 had only 83% of the base of Plate #2.](#)

*This being fact*, would negate the **Theory** that the heel of the hoof capsule follows the toe as the toe is forced forward.

The facts clearly show that while the toe migrated forward horizontally by 0.24 inches, the heel *in relation to the limb above*, increased horizontally the *opposite direction in reference to the toe* by 0.05 inches.

At the same time, if you compare PER 5 measurements in both plates you will see that the distance actually increased by 0.05 inches giving further indication that the heel does not follow the toe in migration. If it did so, this distance would not increase. In fact, by comparing the heel location of the shoe in relation to the limb above, we can readily see that the base is actually moving rearward.

The combination of the toe moving forward and the base of the heels moving rearward, provides the need for increasingly larger shoes. (from size #2 to Size #4 in this case in only 16 weeks).

One final note on this foot. I produced the Plate #2 foot by **ONE** *very specific alteration* to my "Symmetrical Hoofcare Protocol". I have done this to 80 horses and have produced the same results (in various degrees) to all hooves where the protocol was altered. In fact, Plate #1 was taken after one month of that alteration and the resulting toe deviation that has started on that plate is the result of that alteration of protocol. I would be happy to discuss the results of that overall study with you if you desire.

This page will discuss the hoof capsule that has developed deformation during a period of less than 14 weeks time.



**Plate #3**

This foot shod 2 times via traditional methods



**Plate #4**

This foot has not been reset at all

Both photos were taken pre-shoeing, were in the same local  
and were subjected to the same work levels.

**Plate #3** was shod by another CJF farrier for 2 shoeings  
after being changed from my care.

**Plate #4** was *not reset* at all during the same period of time,  
due to owner's health problems.

It is clear to see that in Plate #4 the hoof capsule was still in a  
state of *dynamic equilibrium* even after 13 weeks of the same  
setting of shoes.



**Plate #5**



**Plate #6**

Looking at Plates #5 and #6 provides lateral views of the same feet.

As Plates #3 and #4 above.

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I have reams of data and over 15,000 (yes it says fifteen thousand) photos of my research. I am currently looking to share the information that I have accumulated. Hopefully you may be interested in assisting me with that venture. I am planning on publishing a Protocol Manual and will begin that project sometime in 2008. Any suggestions you may have would be greatly appreciated.

This is ONLY A SMALL EXAMPLE OF MY WORK>.

Respectfully submitted. Martin D. Kenny