

BITTING & SHOEING RECLASSIFIED AS CRUEL

“...the rehabilitation of the horse’s mouth and foot.” W.R. Cook, FRCVS, PhD, H. Strasser, Dr.vet.med, and E.R.J.M. De Beukelaer, DVM, MRVCS.

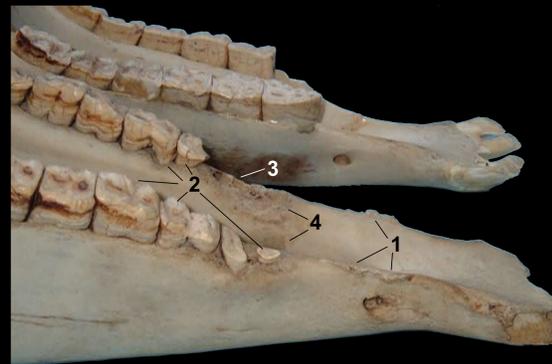
THE PROBLEM

- BITS CAUSE ACUTE PAIN, FEAR, DISEASE & ACCIDENTS
- SHOES CAUSE CHRONIC PAIN, CRIPPLING DISEASE & PREMATURE EUTHANASIA
- RECENT ADVANCES PROVIDE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES & AVOID THESE PROBLEMS



THE DOUBLE BRIDLE: Two bits and a chain are currently mandated for all advanced dressage competitions under FEI rules. Competitors use dropped nosebands and crank chinstraps in a mostly doomed attempt to stop their horses from opening their metal-burdened mouths.

PHOTO: TUFTS CUMMINGS SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



BIT DAMAGE TO THE MOUTH:
Key: 1. Bone spurs on the ‘bars’ of the mouth; 2. Erosion of the first three cheek teeth from constant bit pressure and the horse trying to defend itself by ‘grabbing-the-bit’; 3. Loss of the first cheek tooth; 4. Extensive periostitis of the tooth socket [Compare with the normal jaw above.]

PHOTO © Dr. Robert Cook



THE SHOD HOOF: Laminitis caused by shoeing resulted in rotation of the third phalanx until the tip of the bone penetrated the sole. The healthy bone should ‘sit’ flat within the hoof, in the same orientation as the bones below. Euthanasia had been recommended for this 19 year-old horse but he was restored to health by removing the shoe and improving the management.

PHOTO © Claudia Garner

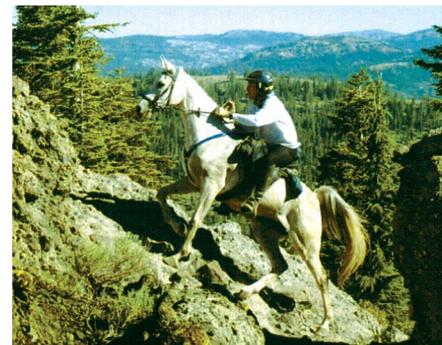


SHOE DAMAGE TO BONE: The lower of the two photographs shows erosion and deformity of the third phalanx. The white line shows that the front contour of the bone is no longer straight [compare with healthy bone above].

PHOTOS © Dr. Hiltrud Strasser

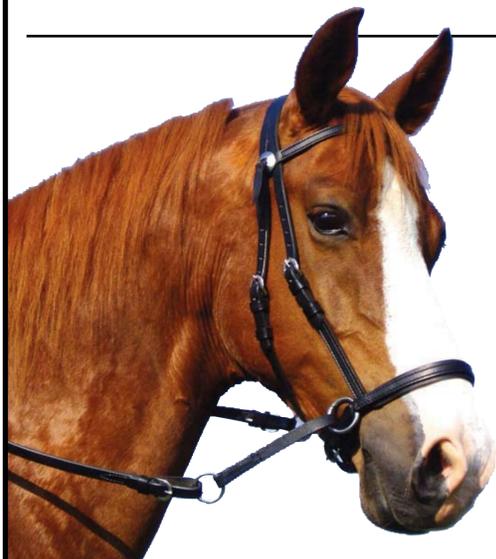
THE SOLUTION

- NEW METHODS ARE PAINLESS, SAFER & MORE HUMANE
- REMOVING THE BIT SOLVES OVER 100 PROBLEMS FOR HORSE & RIDER
- BAREFOOT MANAGEMENT VASTLY IMPROVES A HORSE’S QUALITY OF LIFE



RECENT ADVANCES enable horses of all breeds, types and temperaments to be ridden in all disciplines withouts bits or shoes. Properly managed, a barefoot horse performs better on any terrain, no matter how rocky. Similarly, the crossover bitless bridle can be used by riders of all ages and skills. This particular horse was ridden in such a bridle throughout a 100-mile endurance race.

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www.bitlessbridle.com

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BAREFOOT: All four hooves looked as good as this one at the end of a 100-mile endurance ride. The horse had completed a 50-mile ride 48 hours earlier.

www.thehorseshoof.com

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