

Fact Sheet

Remedial Farriery

Introduction

Excellent remedial farriery is an essential part of the management of a lame horse and close collaboration between farriers and vets is essential to optimise the horse's care.

Poor foot balance contributes significantly to many lameness and back pain cases and corrective farriery is frequently recommended as part of the initial treatment.



A team approach

A team approach between diagnostic clinicians, orthopaedic surgeons and remedial farriers ensures that each horse or pony receives individual treatment tailored to their conformation and shoeing requirements.

Farriers work closely with clinicians, frequently using radiographs as guidance.



When is remedial farriery needed?

All types of horses and ponies may require farriery to help with a range of problems:

- Young foals with limb deformities
- Horses with lameness where foot imbalance is contributing to the lameness
- Horses who have sustained traumatic hoof injuries
- Laminitis cases

Depending on the individual horse or pony, the farriers will decide what course of action they deem most appropriate to correct the problem.



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Methods may include:

- The use of traditional or plastic shoes
- Sole packing
- The use of acrylic hoof fillers to repair hoof wall defects

Re-examination of the horse is carried out at the time of re-shoeing, which we normally recommend at 5-week intervals. As soon as the correction has been achieved, the aim is for the client to return to their own farrier.



Routine care of your horse's feet

- Get to know your horse's feet – examine them everyday to check for any heat, thrush, cracks or infections
- It is important to pick out your horse's feet every day to remove stones and dirt
- During dry weather, applying a hoof moisturising oil a few times a week will help to prevent cracks
- If your horse is shod, check regularly for wear and tear, loose nails and clenches
- Your farrier should visit every 4-6 weeks if your horse is shod, and every 6-10 weeks for an unshod horse
- Ensuring your horse's feet are kept well trimmed and balanced reduces the likelihood of foot lameness
- Ask your vet about appropriate nutritional changes or supplements if your horse's hoof quality or growth rate needs to improve



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This factsheet was created by the VetPartners Equine Team, with assistance from our Marketing Team and Veterinary Regulatory Advisors.

For further information, please contact your local VetPartners Equine Veterinary Practice on:

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VetPartners Equine has a diverse range of practices and expertise within the group.

Together with our practices, our focus is on providing an excellent service to our equine clients. No two practices are the same, and we understand and embrace that independent spirit.