

Navicular Syndrome in Horses

Navicular Syndrome is a degenerative "disease" of a horse's hoof that can be caused by many factors.

The navicular bone found in the back area of a horse's hoof becomes abrasive through deterioration, causing the deep digital flexor tendon that slides along this bone to become painful for the horse. There are many reasons a horse could get navicular syndrome, including genetic weakness, concussive injury, improper shoeing, improper use of the horse, etc. Usually the pain from such a situation is going to limit the usability of a horse.

The short stunted walk of a horse with navicular is usually pretty easy to spot, depending on how extreme the case is. X-rays and a qualified vet and farrier to assess the situation is a must for the horse owner.

Common fixes to help ease the pain inflicted by navicular syndrome are raised heels, (done by leaving extra heel when trimming if possible or through the use of wedge pads). Therapy pads may be suggested to ease the concussion of the horse's normal movement. An eggbar shoe is also another commonly attempted rectification.

Regular trimming schedules are going to be key to keeping a horse with navicular syndrome comfortable. This will insure that the angles are kept at the proper degree. The horse's hoof tends to grow longer at the toe in most cases and shoot the angles lower, causing the abrasive navicular condition to intensify.