

*Theme 10: Hoof care*

# FIVE STEP PROTOCOL FOR HOOF TRIMMERS (Level 1)

Topic	Training & information Content
10.1	Hoof diseases and hoof care management
10.2	Five step protocol for hoof trimmers



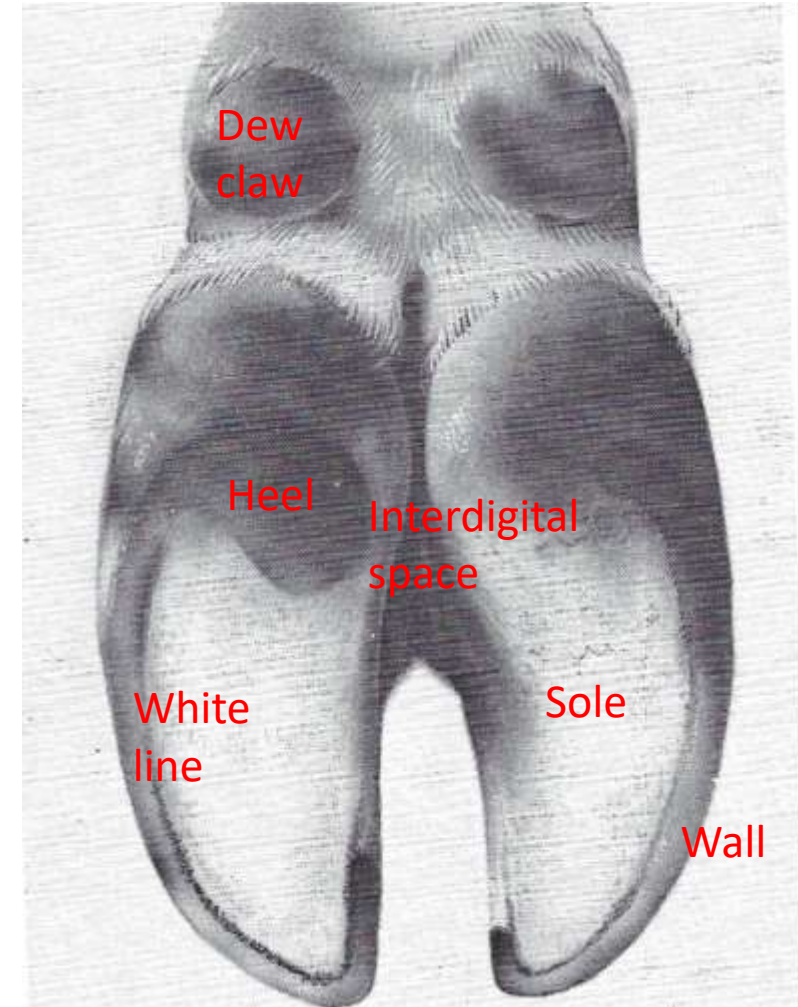
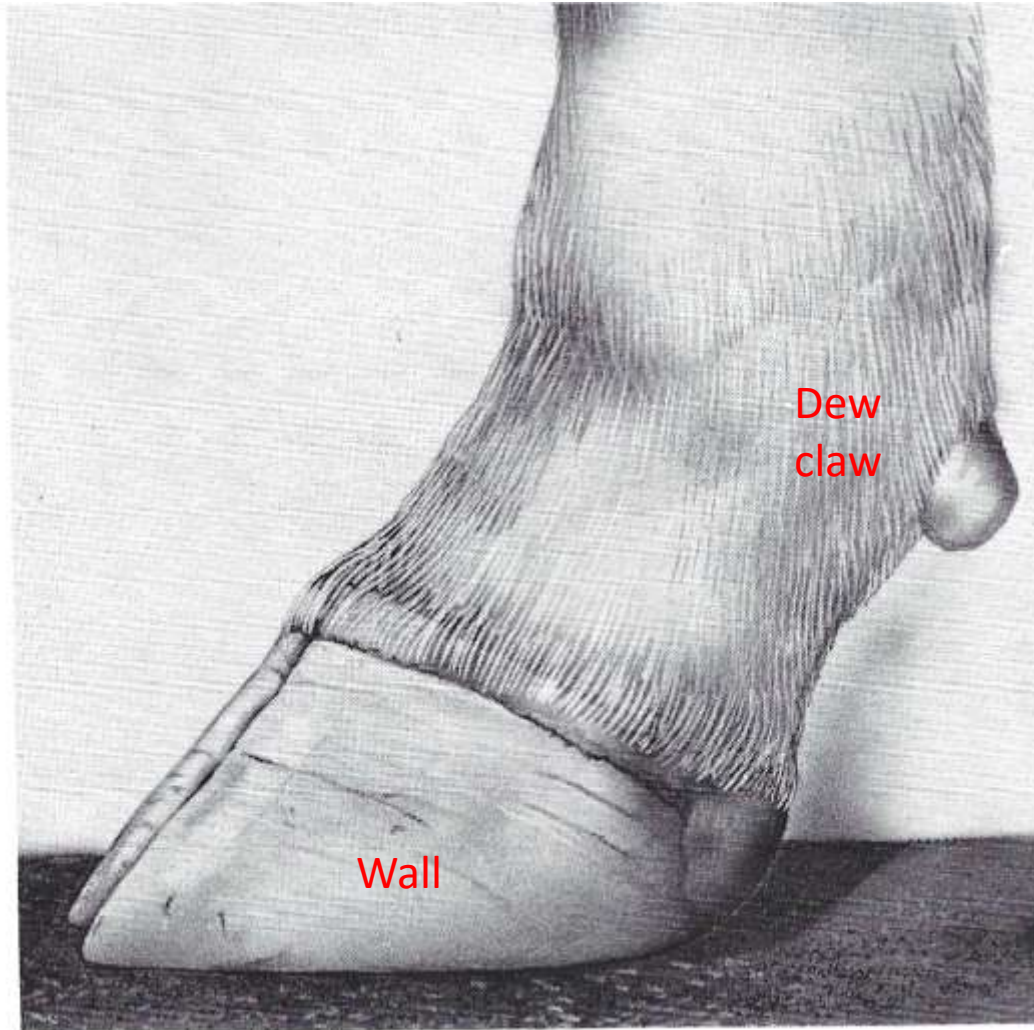
## 1. You will learn about (learning objectives):

- How to fix/restrain a cow for hoof trimming.
- How to lift cow's leg.
- Equipment you need for hoof trimming.
- How to functionally trim rear hoofs.
- How to functionally trim a front hoofs.
- How to therapeutically trim cattle hoofs.

You will learn the theoretics and understanding behind the job. Only practice can give you the skills!



## 2. Introduction: Anatomy of the foot



Claw (hoof) makes 45 degree angle with the floor

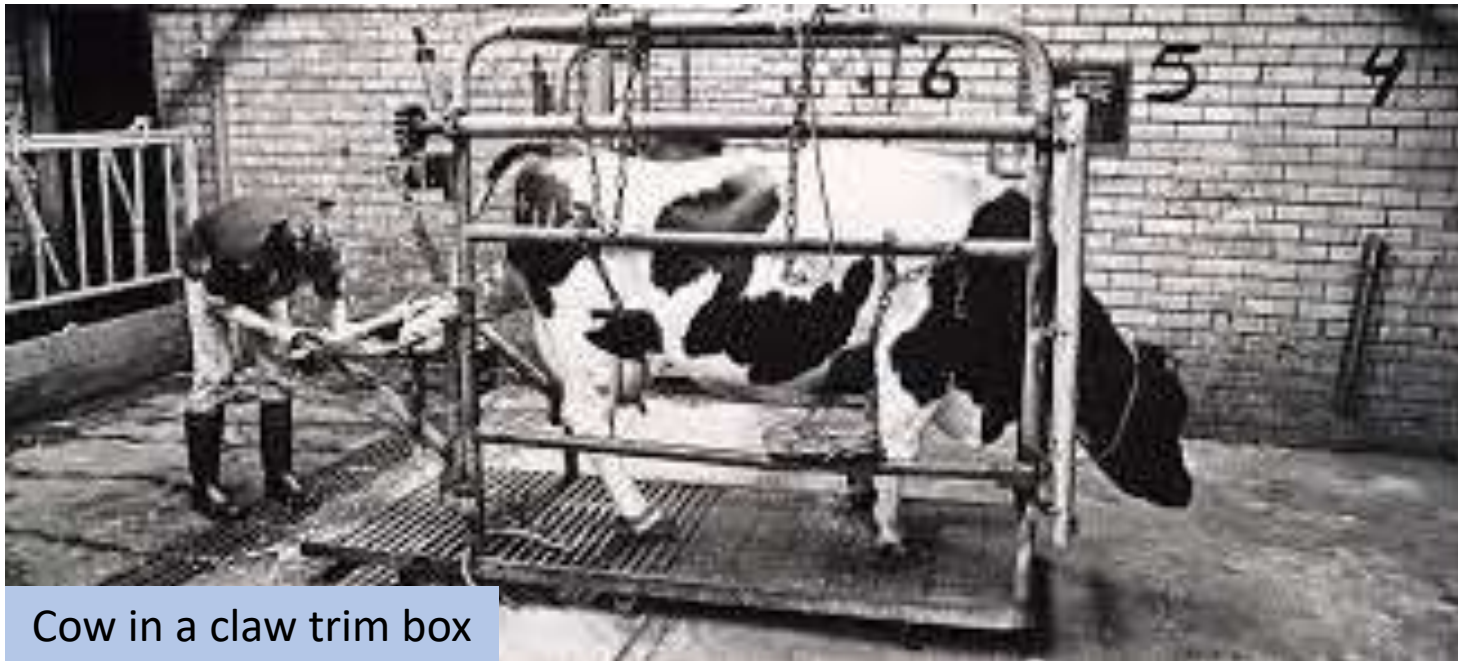
### 3. Why cows need pedicure

- Cattle giving a lot of milk and walking on concrete will get hoof problems.
- In order to solve this they need regular trimming.



## 4. How to fix/restrain the cow

- In order to properly trim a cow's claw, she needs to be fixed/restrained to perform the job well and to safeguard the health of the trimmer.
- To do it properly you need a claw box.

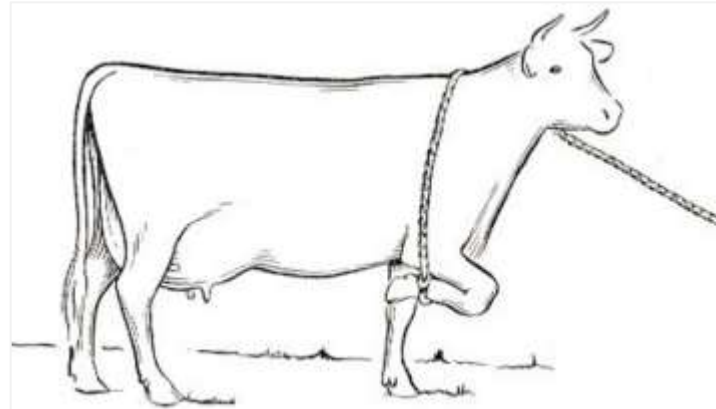


Cow in a claw trim box

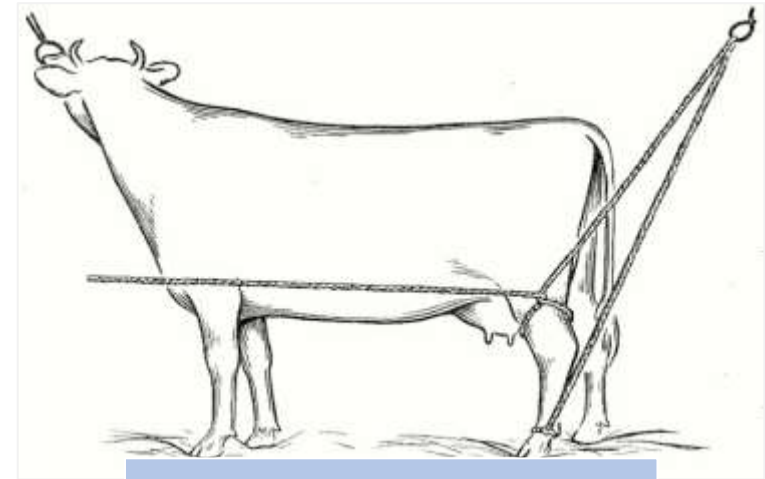
## 5. How to fix the leg



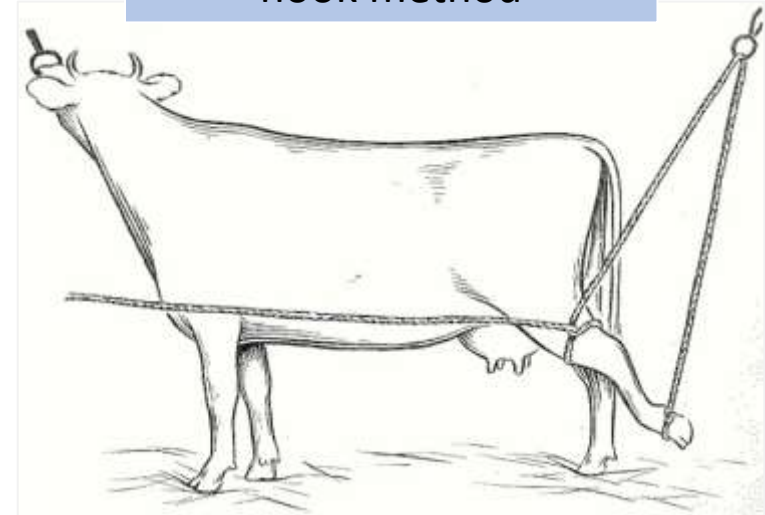
Lifting a rear leg manually



Raising a front leg



Raising rear leg beam  
hook method



## 6. Hoof trimming equipment

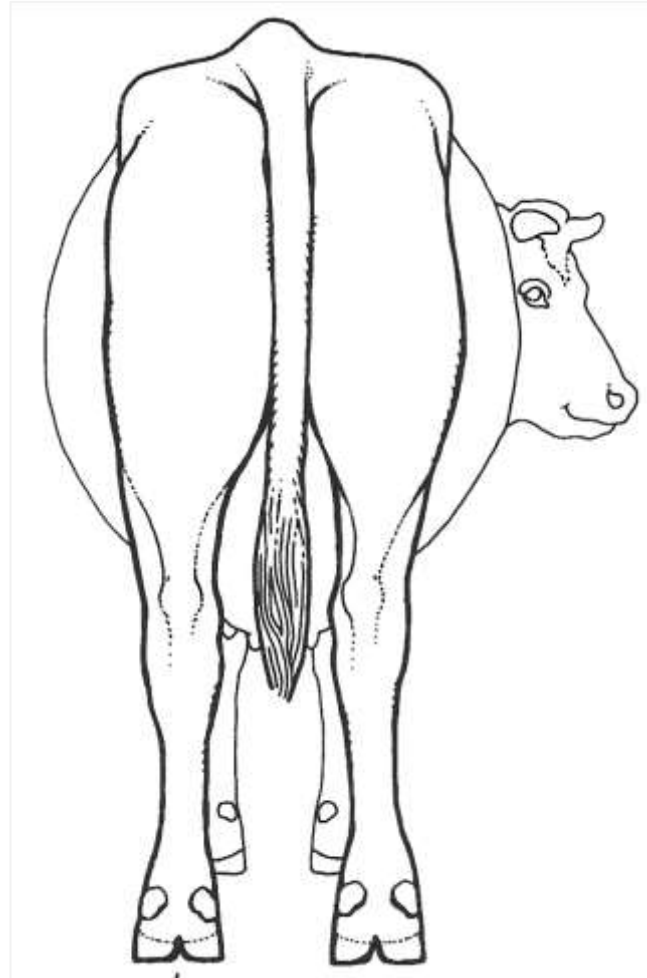


## 7. Pre-trimming checks

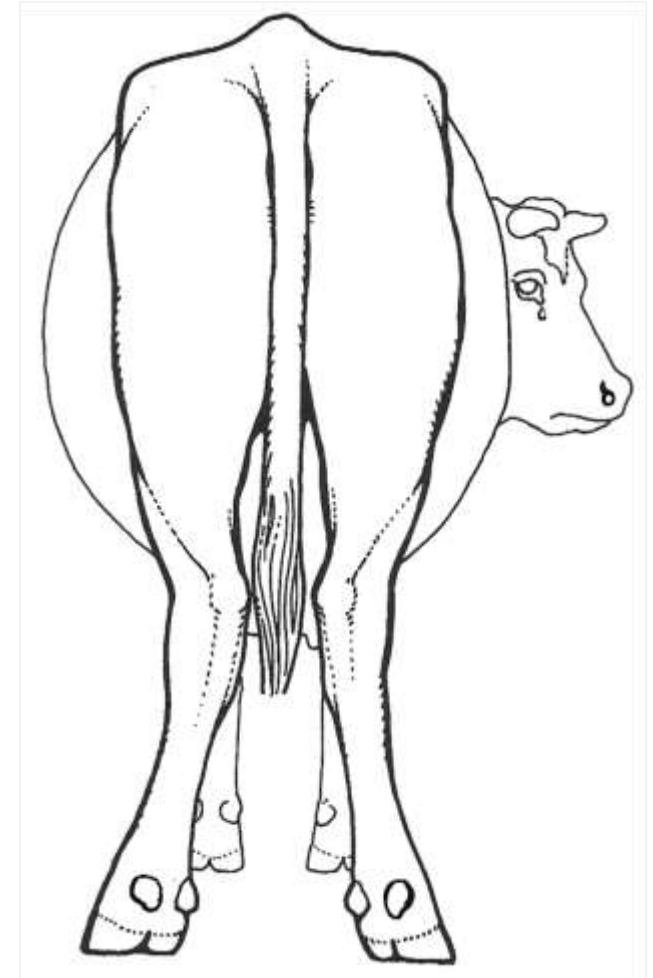


### Tips:

- Check stand
- Clean
- Check hoofs



Cow standing straight, likely not much trimming required.



Hocks bends inside, outside claws need to be shortened. Therapeutic trimming possible.



## 8. Five (5) steps of hoof trimming

### The five (5) Steps

1. Decide the length and trim the length of the inner claw.
2. Fit the outer claw to the inner claw.
3. Make them flat.
4. Model them in right shape and remove loose horn.
5. Treat any diseases (therapeutic trimming).

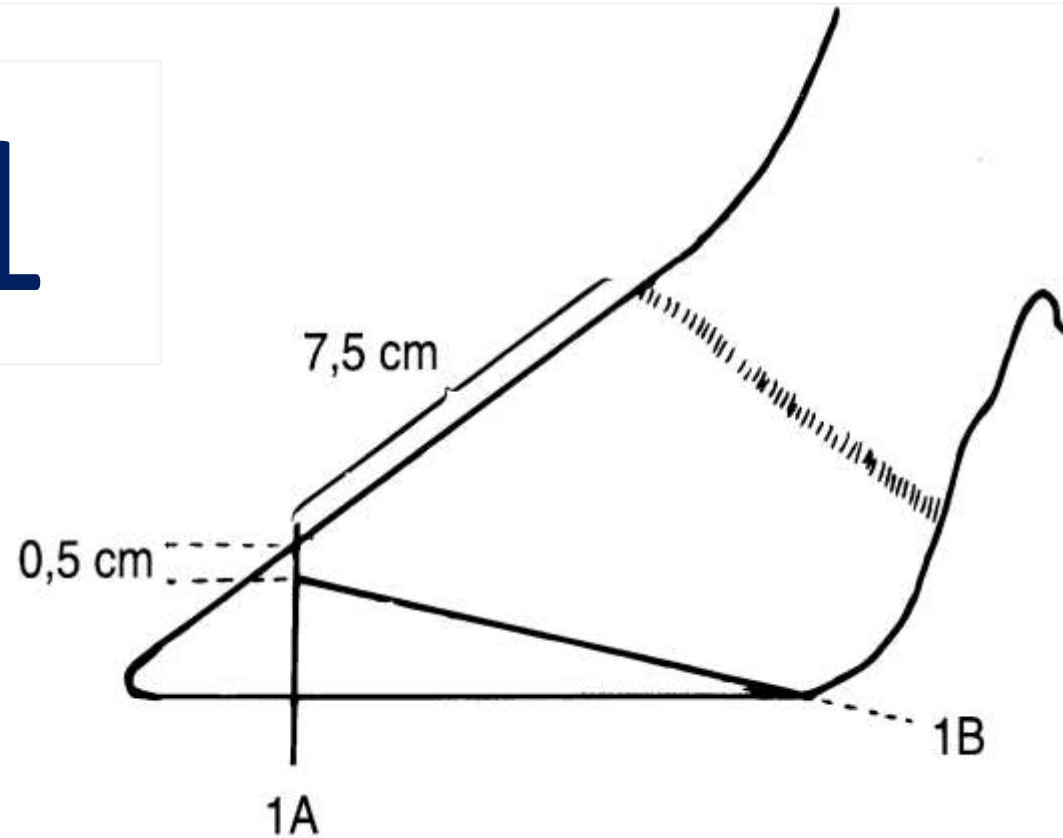


## 9. Step 1: Decide the length and trim the length of the inner claw



To decide the length of the claw is very important; the hoof shoe should fit perfectly.

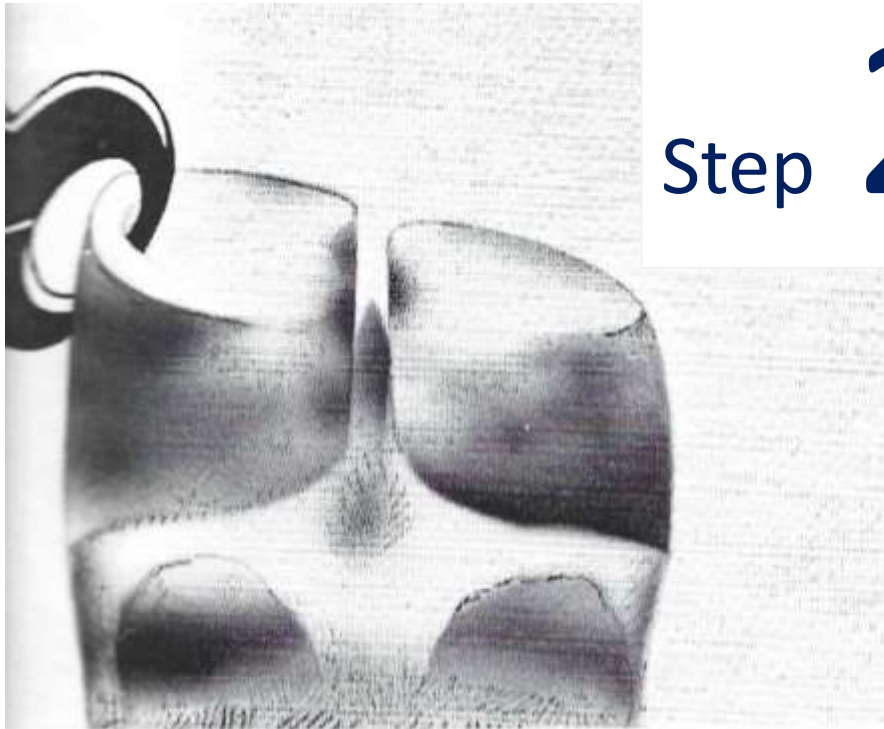
Step 1



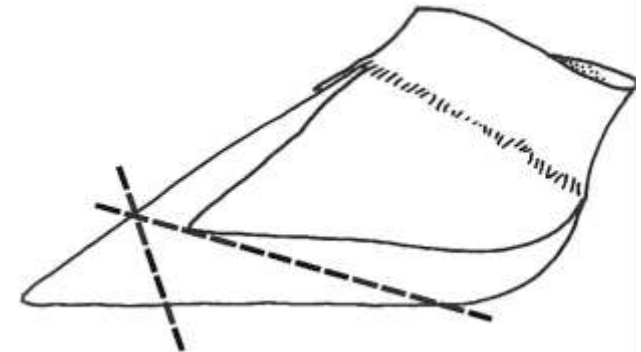
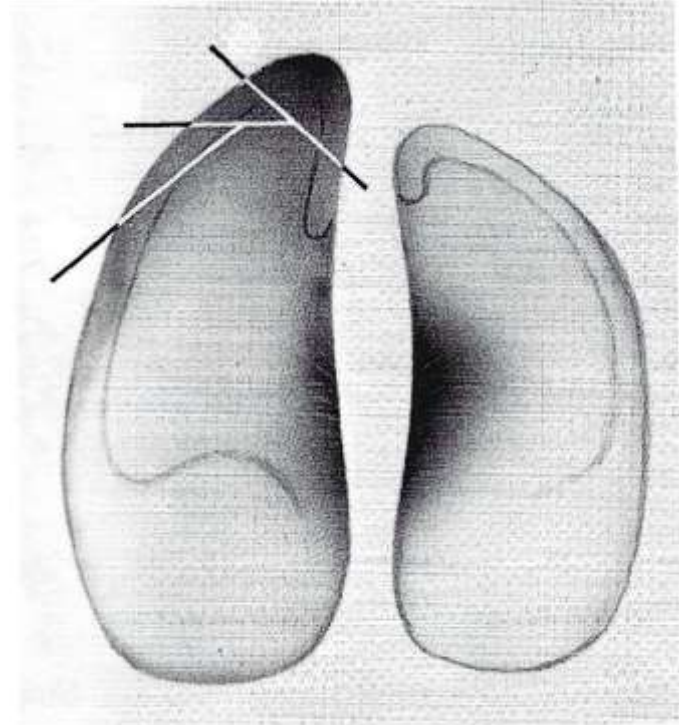
- Cut the inner hoof at 7.5 cm ( 1A )
- Leave the sole 0.5 cm thick ( 1B )
- Leave the back 5 cm high ( 1C )

## 10. Step 2: Fit the outer claw to the inner claw

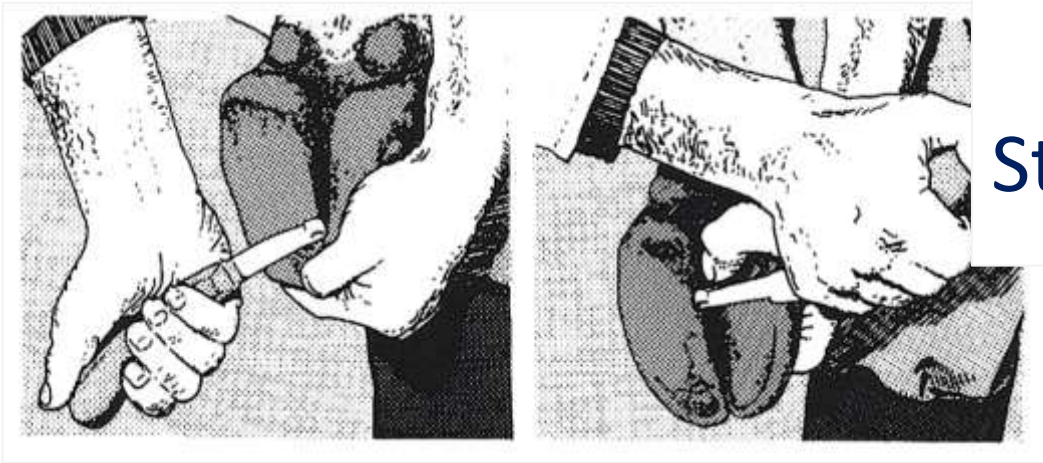
- Clip the outer claw just as long as the inner claw.
- Clipping too short, especially at the tip of the sole can give lesions, which can lead to a nasty lameness.



Step 2



## 11. Step 3: Make the soles flat

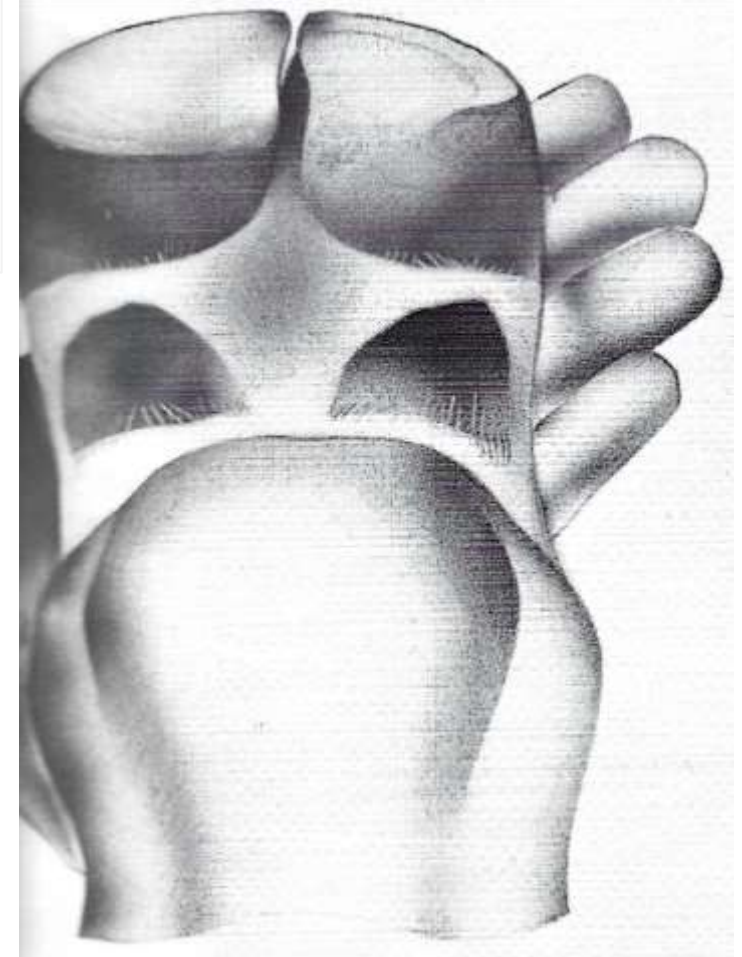


Step 3

### Safety first



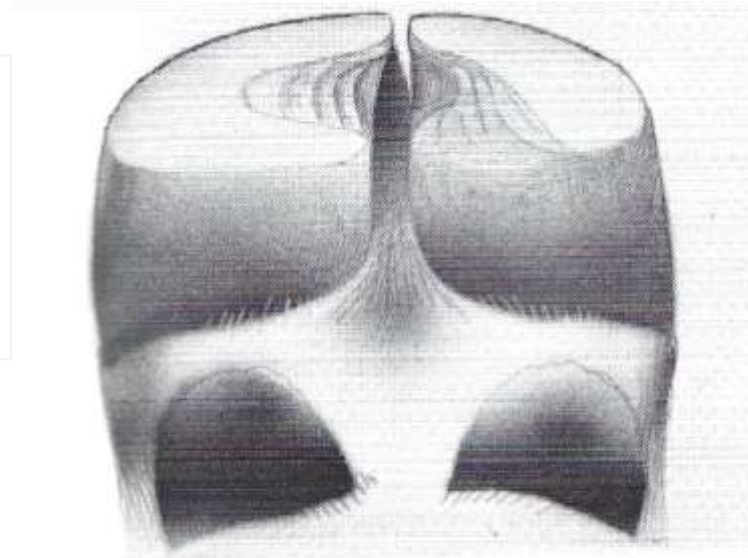
- Keep the hoof knife as flat as possible with the sole.
- Support the hoof with the hand not used for cutting.
- Always cut away from that hand.



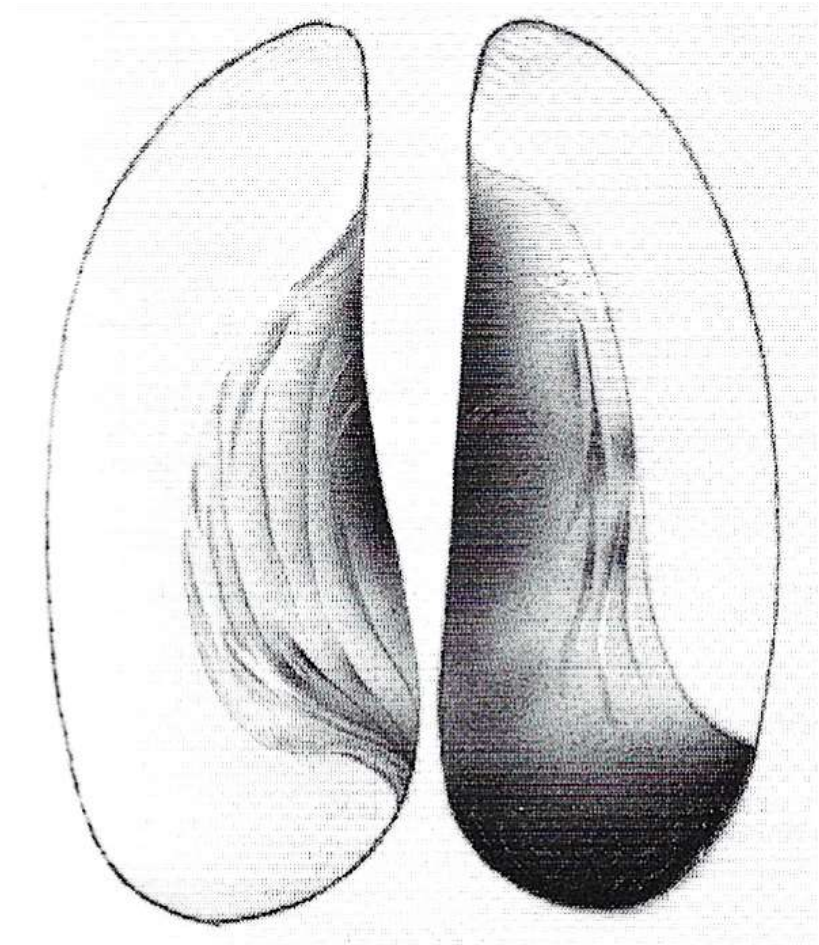
## 12. Step 4: Model the sole and remove loose horn

- The last step of the functional pedicure is to model the sole and to remove loose horn.
- Now the functional pedicure is ready. The cows stand will be corrected and when the claw is healthy the job is now finished.
- You can put the leg on the floor now and check the result of the work done.

Step 4



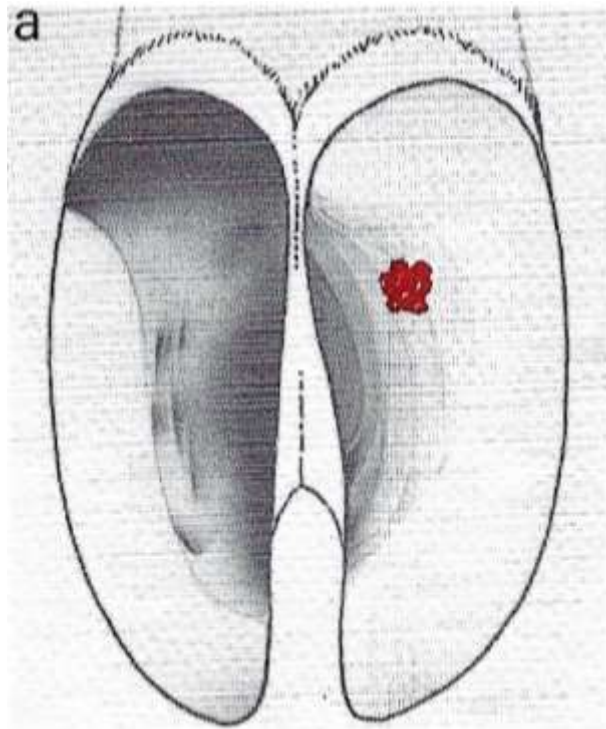
Inside hoof



Outside hoof

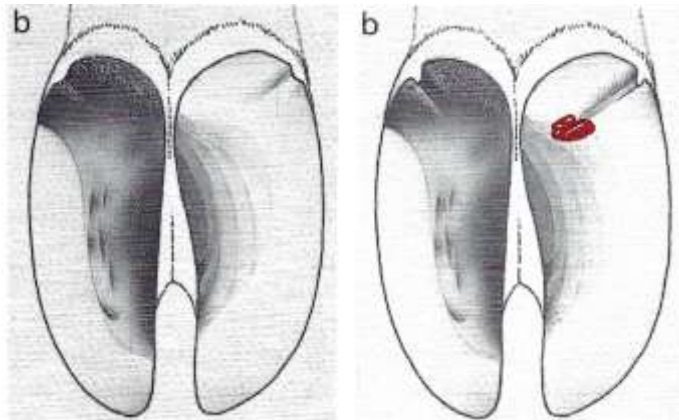
### 13. Step 5: Therapeutic pedicure

- The most important step for therapeutic trimming is already taken. By good functional pedicure, the cows standing position will be improved. This will decrease lameness and already help cure possible issues.
- Nevertheless there are certain problems, which require special attention. These can be; (a) Sole ulcer, (b) fissures and (c) wall defects.

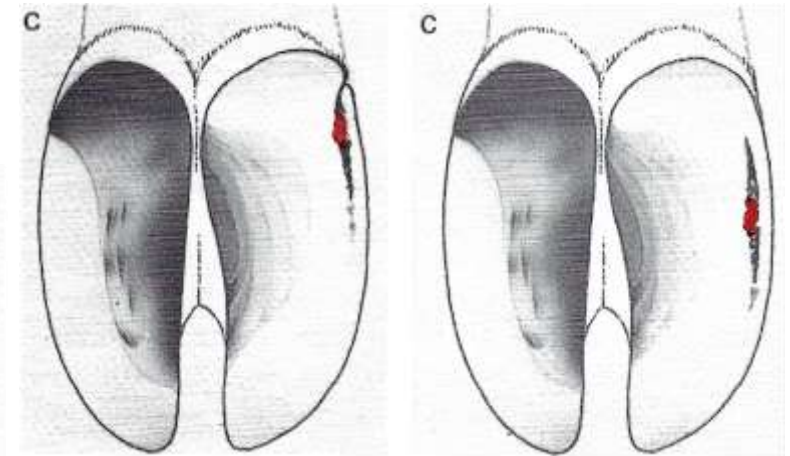


Sole ulcer

## Step 5



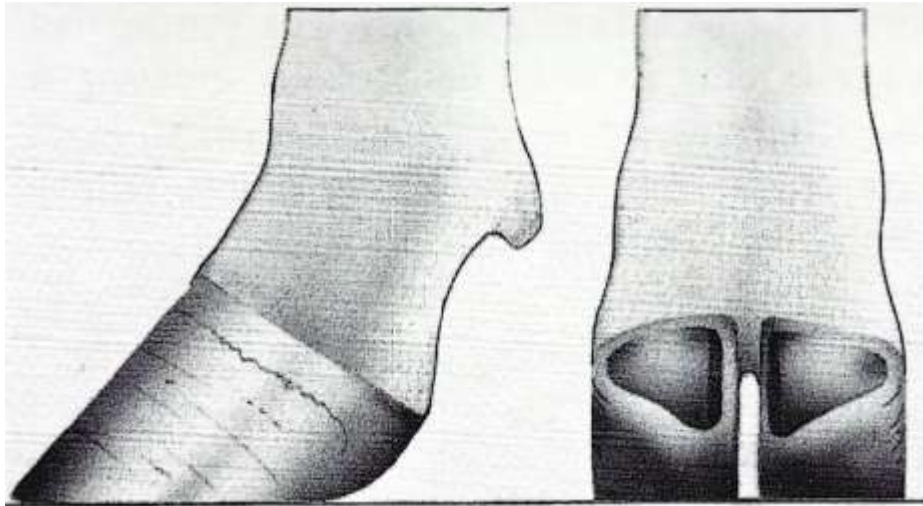
Fissures



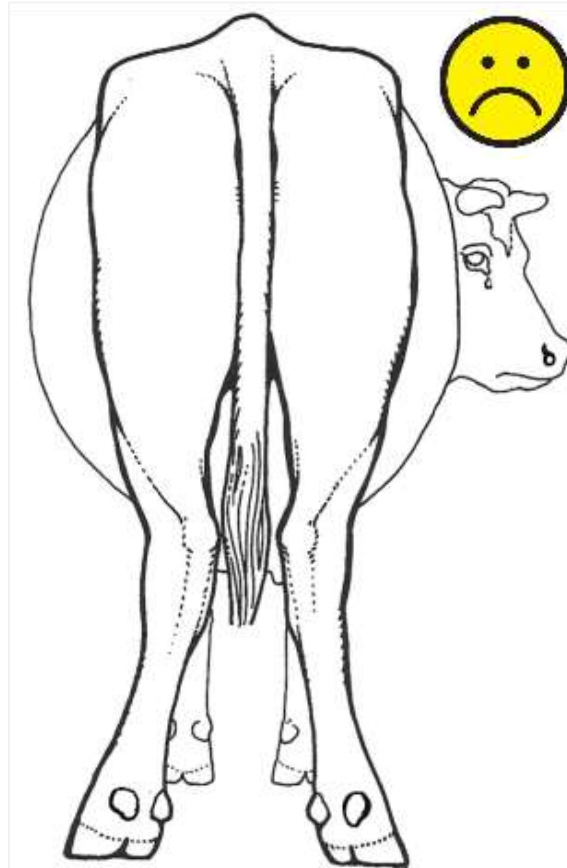
Wall defects

## 14. When the job is finished: Results of hoof trimming

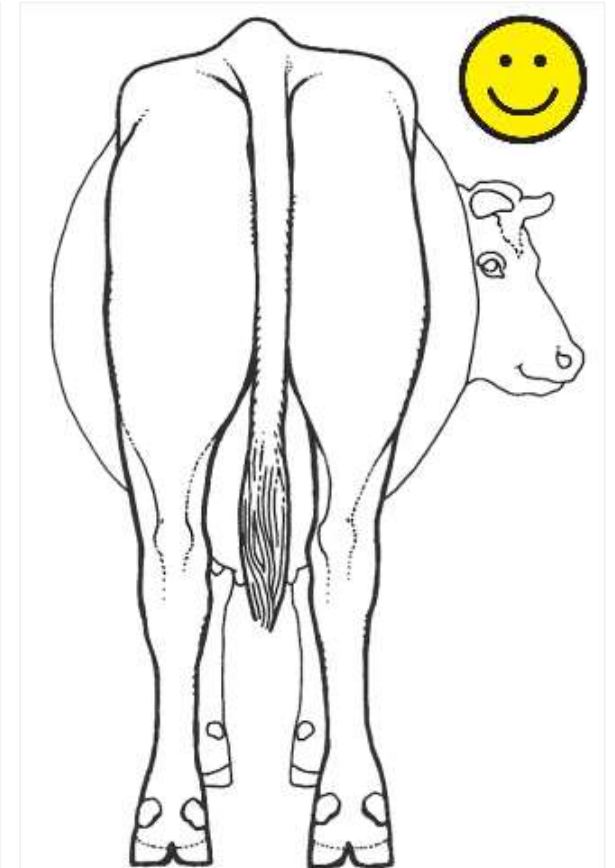
- Put the leg back on the floor and check.
- Go stand behind the cow and look if there is improvement.
- Go stand aside of the cow in judge of the angle of the hoof with the floor is correct.
- Often perfection is not achieved, but improvement should be observed.



The result of hoof trimming



BEFORE trimming



AFTER trimming



## 15. Summary/Take home messages

### Disclaimer

1. You only become a skilled hoof trimmer with a lot of practice, if trained on the job by an experienced teacher.
2. Understanding the theoretics behind the work you perform is essential.
3. No hoof trimming job can be done without proper tools.
4. To continue practising, maintaining tools (knives) is crucial.

Watch video:

<https://youtu.be/BxvuXyJ4nrs>

