

## Cause and treatment of white line disease (Thrush) in the feet of horses by Dr. John Fudens HMC DVM PH.

Thrush also known as seedy toe, hoof or stall rot, hollow foot, yeast/Candida infection, white line disease (WLD) is a disease of the sulci of the frog and other aspects of the horse's foot including the wall. White line disease (WLD) affects the middle and thickest layer of the hoof wall — the stratum medium — between the outer hoof wall and the insensitive laminae (also called the stratum internum). WLD usually starts at the bottom of the foot and travels upward separating the hoof wall and causing hollow areas in the hoof. There will also be a fetid odor coming from the affected foot as this disease eats away at the tissues plus the contamination from the pathologic organisms. This will cause serious problems with the horse and their owners as the horses will be in pain and in a lot of cases unrideable until this issue is treated. Other health issues may develop as with humans the horse's feet are among the most important of the body parts.

**Cause.** Veterinarians, farriers and uninformed owners claim the cause is bacteria, yeast, fungi and other organisms which can be cultured from the feet. Nothing could be further from the truth. Any organism that can be cultured from these feet are opportunistic (secondary to a deeper cause) because the horse's immune system or vital force (a spirit like energy as it is called in homoeopathy) that animates the body and is responsible for its health is damaged. The cause in most cases starts with the excessive use of injectable vaccines. A condition called vaccinosis. Vaccines are the single biggest cause of ill health and damaged immune systems in all life forms including humans mainly babies and children. This statement, which I can prove, does not endear me to conventional medicine for either animals or humans. Vaccines are a political and financial issue in societies on this planet and are a violation of animal and human rights.

**Treatment.** Conventional medicine relies on using antiseptics or caustic liquids to treat the feet topically. Products like Kopertox, diluted bleach and other liquids are painted on the affected areas to kill the pathogens. Farriers will try to trim away diseased tissue to the limits that can be done without causing more damage to the hoof structures. Within reason I have no problem with these methods as long as the horse is not further injured or traumatized. But any and all such methods are treating a symptom not the cause. My treatment protocol is first to educate the owner as to the dangers of the vaccines and to try and get them to stop or greatly limit their use. One can see I am not looked on with favor from vets. I make sure the shoes are removed and kept off. I never shoe my horses and always ride bit less. If I cannot control my horse without metal in their mouth hurting them I have no business being on their back. My go to homoeopathic remedy is Thuja Occidentalis (Arbor vitae tree which grows in

mountain elevations). It is called the “tree of life” in north America. This is a beautiful remedy that I use in all life forms for many different types of disease conditions. It has the wonderful action of also being one of the best homoeopathic remedies to antidote the harmful actions of most all injectable vaccines. I do not use it to antidote rabies vaccine. There is another remedy for that. What makes this remedy so great in treating WLD in horses is it works on the cause (antidoting vaccines in the body) and healing the damaged tissue while stimulating the immune system to kill the secondary pathogens. There are other remedies I can use and have done so but in my many years of experience this is the one I start with. All forms of topical treatment without addressing the root cause will at best give a temporary improvement. Horse’s feet being in manure, mud, urine, dry/wet surfaces 24/7 are exposed to all sorts of germs. So why don’t all horses have this condition. When I take a patient on and take a case history in every situation the horse’s immune system has been damaged. In those cases there is a history of excessive and multiple combinations of vaccines. Treating WLD in horses can take many weeks or months to correct depending on the severity and time the condition has existed.

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