

# THRUSH

## WHAT IS THRUSH?

Thrush is an infection of the frog, central sulcus, and collateral grooves. Left untreated, this infection can penetrate deep into the dermal layers of the hoof where it can cause serious pain, lameness, and permanent damage to the frog curium and other sensitive internal structures of the foot. Thrush is typically bacterial, while white line disease is typically fungal - though both can be a combination of "bungus" - both bacteria and fungus. These keratolytic organisms produce extracellular enzymes that are really good at breaking down the proteins of a horse's foot, and then feed on the degraded tissue.

## TREATMENT

Thrush feeds on degraded sole & frog tissue. This is why we want to pick treatments that combat bacteria & fungi, but are not aggressive to living tissue. When we use products that are harmful to live tissue, we end up providing a renewed food source for the bacteria to reinfect the foot. Many horse owners who use caustic chemicals find themselves fighting the problem repeatedly as the microbial invasion continues to return over time. Continued usage of overly drying products like iodine can also cause cracks in the sole, which then become a perfect environment for the bacteria to infiltrate and thus perpetuate the cycle of infection.

## CAUSTIC SUBSTANCES:



- Copper Sulfate
- Formaldehyde/Formalin
- Peroxide
- Bleach
- Turpentine
- Acetone



## WHY DID MY HORSE GET THRUSH?

Thrush and WLD are opportunistic infections that are usually symptoms of a bigger problem. *What is going on with your horse that is making them vulnerable to these infections in the first place?*

- It is important to look at the diet closely if thrush and/or white line disease is present. Diets high in sugar and starch are a major factor, as well as unbalanced trace mineral uptake.
- Infrequent Hoof Care - contracted heels, overly long and flared hooves causes mechanical separation & poor hoof wall connection in addition to unexfoliated frog and sole material which both create a perfect environment for thrush causing organisms to infiltrate
- Insulin resistance, PPID, and other immunocompromised states conditions can weaken the hooves and allow infections to occur.

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Sources: "The Essential Hoof Book" by Kauffmann & Cline

"The Hoof of the Horse" by Simon Curtis

The Humble Hoof Podcast - Thrush Interview with Sam Austin & Joe Sexton, PhD

"Debunking Hoof Remedies for Equine Thrush" by Lifedata



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# THRUSH TREATMENT

## PREVENTION

- Pick hooves daily
- Apply hoof clay once weekly to the central sulcus & collateral grooves
- Maintain a hygienic environment for your horse, removing urine & manure daily and managing mud
- Balance your horse's trace mineral intake
- Have your horse's hooves trimmed every 4-5 weeks



## TREATING THE HOOF



## CHOOSE YOUR SPRAY

- Red Horse Products "Sole Cleanse" (for both treatment & prevention)
- Pure Sole Hoof Cleanse (for both treatment & prevention)

## CHOOSE YOUR CLAY

- Red Horse Products "Artimud" (for both treatment & prevention)
- Red Horse Products "The Hoof Stuff" (for deep central sulcus infections, white line separation, and treatment of severe infections)
- Pure Sole Hoof Clay (for both treatment & prevention)
- Red Horse Products "Field Paste" (for prevention on really wet/muddy days!)



- Pick your hooves thoroughly and use your spray to clean the entire solar surface of the hoof
- Smear your clay liberally in the collateral grooves, central sulci & white line separation

Repeat once weekly for prevention year round & 3 times weekly or more for treatment

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