

## Contracted Hooves.

Contraction occurs when the frog is not allowed to have ground contact during the initial part of the hooves loading face. The initial concussion is supposed to be absorbed by the digital cushion when it get compressed between the short pasture bone and the frog. The frog will be pressed down until it finds good enough ground contact or the two rear sides (blue arrows) of the hoof “meet in the middle”. Every single step where the frog does not find sufficient ground pressure will contract the hoof even further.

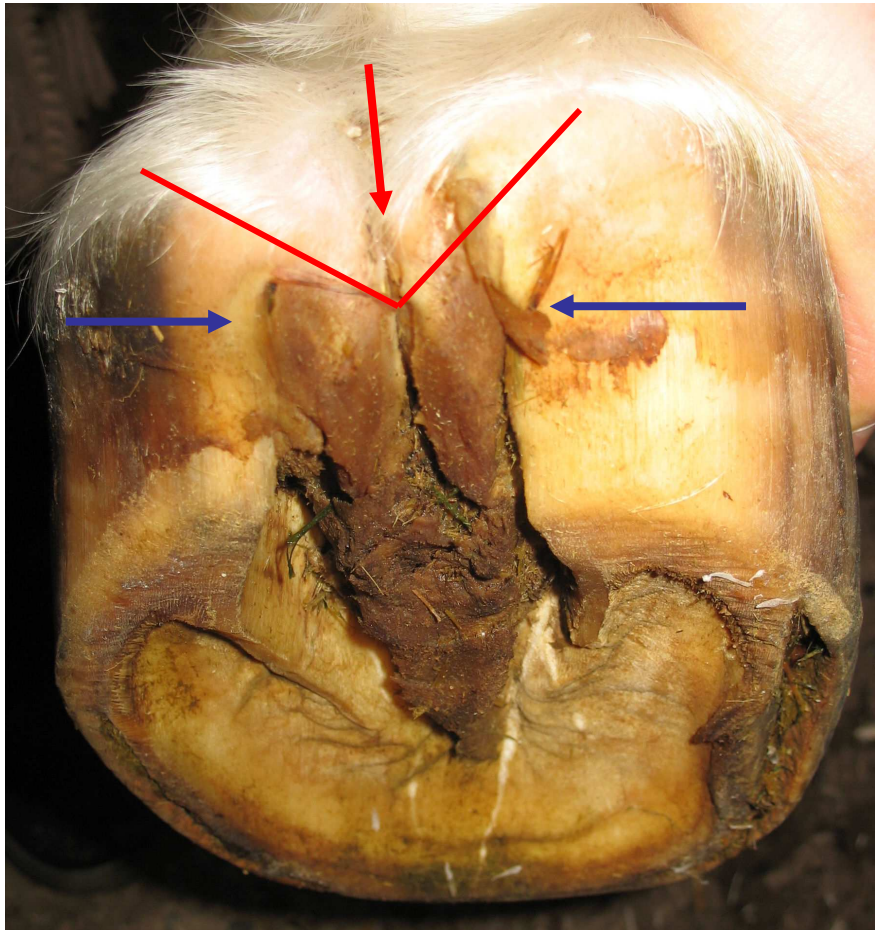
The two most common reason for contracted hooves are thrush and that the hoof care provider has left the heels too high.

To be completely honest, there is one more very common reason and that is the shoe. The shoe elevates the hoof and of course the frog up from the ground leaving the frog with less than natural ground pressure. My experience is that it doesn't matter if the horse is shod with high or low heels. The frog pressure will never be sufficient when the horse is shod and therefore will shod hooves always be contracted.

Contraction is not only a visual thing. In a contacted hoof is the hoof mechanism and the blood circulation reduced to only a slight fraction of its natural capacity. My research shows clearly that if the frog doesn't touch the ground then there is no hoof mechanism. It stops almost completely.

Please visit one of my seminars to see the videos of hoof mechanism from the inside.

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The best way to get more information on this and other related topics is to attend one of my seminars. If there isn't one scheduled in your neighborhood you have two choices: Host one your self or wait for the book and the DVD-series that both are under production.