

The Seminar objectives are to convey to participants:

1. The nature and evolutionary origin of a healthy hoof form, and why it is optimal for carrying the weight of a horse on all terrains.
2. How a hoof should contact the ground and the physical consequences of deviations from the ideal.
3. How a hoof should be trimmed so that it grows into the natural compact form that functions optimally, contacts the ground correctly, and is in medial-lateral and anterior-posterior balance with the proper alignment of internal and external structures.
4. Why deviations from the ideal, natural hoof form jeopardize long-term soundness and increase the risk of subluxations.
5. Factors that determine hoof health and form, e.g. trimming, management and use practices, terrain, movement, and biomechanics.
6. The etiology, diagnosis, and management of common hoof pathologies.
7. Physiological and biochemical mechanisms through which stress* can negatively impact horse health, compromise recovery from pathologies and injuries, and impair hoof growth and health.
8. The etiology of obesity and obesity-related insulin resistance and how it increases the risk of chronic laminitis.
9. How the gut microbiome plays a significant role in the regulation of many physiological processes, including the development of obesity and obesity-related hoof and health problems.
10. A proper diet and how to estimate the optimal caloric requirements of a horse.
11. How diet, stress*, and terrain affect telomere length, the epigenetic landscape, and transgenerational inheritance.
12. The etiology of Cushing's Disease—a significant risk factor for insulin resistance and general health and hoof pathologies.
13. How to counteract the negative impact of stress* on horse and hoof health through environmental enrichment, e.g., through exercise, training, and management and use practices that fulfill as many of a horse's psychological needs as possible.
14. Using hoof health and form to assess overall horse health, the quality of management and use practices, biomechanics, and soundness.
15. Factors that determine whether riding is a beneficial activity for horses or is detrimental to their general health and soundness.
16. How to improve comfort and relaxation for equine care and interventions.
17. How the information in the seminar pertains to the diagnosis and manipulative treatment of joint misalignments.

*Note: The term "stress" is used to refer to suboptimal management and use (e.g., riding) practices, the stressors that are inherent to life in captivity, and the pain and discomfort associated with pathologies and injuries.