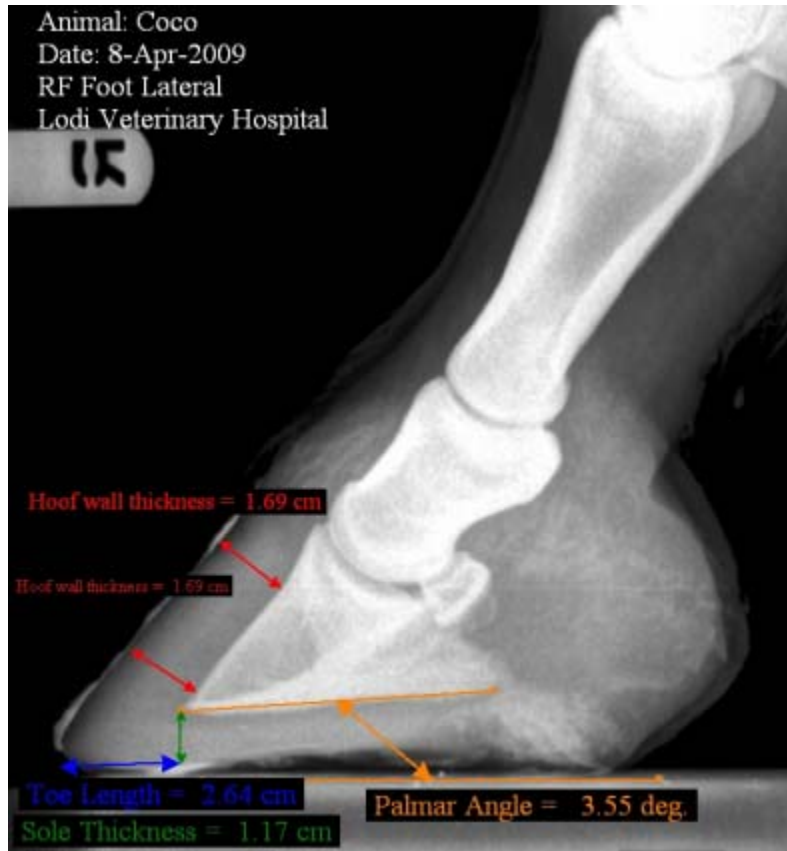


Preventative Foot Care Program



Preventative foot care can have a tremendous benefit to your horse's soundness and level of performance. Baseline lateral foot radiographs can help us determine important parameters about your horse's foot balance. We can then work with your farrier to come up with a plan to maximize your horse's performance and soundness.

Explanation of Radiographic Terms

Use this guide to help decipher the terms used on the marked lateral radiographs of your horse's foot.

Sole thickness: The depth of the sole measured under the tip of the coffin bone. This number *should be greater than 1 cm* in most horses.

Palmar angle: This is the angle that the coffin bone makes with the ground. This number should generally be *between 2-5 degrees*. When this number gets below 2 degrees, or even becomes a negative angle, this increases the stress on the structures in the back of the foot (including the navicular bone and deep digital flexor tendon).

Hoof wall thickness: The hoof wall should be parallel to the front of the coffin bone. Two measurements are generally made to compare this distance. Horses with laminitis will show rotation of the coffin bone, resulting in a thicker hoof wall measurement near the toe of the foot.

Toe length: Measures the length of toe from the level of the tip of the coffin bone. Excessive toe length can cause a poor breakover.

Breakover: The point at which the foot leaves the ground. This should generally be 0.4-0.7 cm in front of the tip of P3.

