



# FULL COURSE OUTLINE

## COURSE INTRODUCTION

- Orientation & introduce lecturers
- Overview of course
- Changing conventional thought processes
- Code of Conduct
- Career opportunities
- Healthy hoof vs. unhealthy – recognise benefits of barefoot trimming, foundation for sound hooves, natural environment, wild horse relevance and evolution

## EXTREME ENVIRONMENT HOOVES

- Wild horse research
- Relevance to domestic horses – competitive and high mileage barefoot horses in domesticity
- Understanding evolutionary needs and development of the horses hoof

## HOOF MECHANISM

- Identifying parts of the hoof
- Function of the hooves
- What is a healthy, sound hoof?
- Characteristics unique to a sound hoof
- Hoof anatomy - dissections.

## SHOEING OR TRADITIONAL METHODS

- Overview – history of the metal shoe
- Types of shoes
- Comparative studies of shod and barefoot
- Pulling shoes
- Tipping barefoot trained racehorses – overview – current rules

## TOOLS / EQUIPMENT

- Useful and necessary tools
- Developing safe skills
- Cleaning, sharpening
- Importance of good equipment
- Safety equipment

## HOOF PROTECTION

- Hoof boots
- Other options
- For working horses through transition period/horses with poor hoof form
- For rehabilitation – i.e. pads
- Boots available in the market and their features
- Sizing and fitting boots
- Booting as part of a business – client skills

## WHAT IS A CORRECT HOOF TRIM?

- Trim principles and procedures – Non-invasive trimming
- Specific trimming requirements – foals, donkeys, etc.
- Ensuring optimum comfort levels for horses prior, during and after trimming
- cadaver leg trimming
- live horse trimming
- reinforce horse and manual handling
- Record details of trim

## HORSE HANDLING - PRACTICAL

- Understanding horse behaviour and communication between horses
- Dealing with problem horses safely
- Safe hoof and leg handling
- Balancing the horse for trimming
- Handling stallions, young stock, mares in season and unhandled horses, foals
- Donkey handling
- Ensuring horse and trimmer are in relaxed and safe surroundings
- Suitable equipment
- Recognising problem horses. Whether to refer to educator.
- Working on both sides of the horse



## MANUAL HANDLING

- Trimmers body posture and correct stance
- Fitness - exercises, and stretches for optimum trimming fitness

## ASSESS CONFORMATION

- Understand conformation in the horse
- Conformation abnormalities

## ASSESS MOVEMENT AND SOUNDNESS

- Recognise heel first landing, break-over
- Understanding and learning gaits of the horse
- Identifying lameness
- Body mechanics relating to hoof form – Good and Bad
- Problems from hoof related issues
- Performance horses and their requirements

## OPTIMUM ENVIRONMENT FOR HEALTHY HOOVES

- Conventional boarding v natural environment
- Simulating natural conditions which include companionship, freedom of movement, natural forage feed, water, shelter.

## THE HORSE ABOVE THE HOOVES - THE HOLISTIC HORSE

- Overview of the whole horse
- Nutrition and digestion brief overview
- Relevance of teeth and good dentistry
- Body work i.e. chiropractic and sports massage for performance
- Saddle fit
- Understanding role of trimmer in network of horse industries

## HOOF PATHOLOGIES AND REHABILITATION

- Principals to natural healing
- Understanding radiographs and their interpretation
- Recognising hoof pathologies and incorrect hoof form including:

*Foals with special trimming needs*

*Founder/Laminitis*

*Navicular*

*Pedal osteitis*

*White Line Disease*

*Other - club foot, long toe/underslung heel, quarter cracks, flat feet etc)*

- Transition both towards healthy hooves and those regressing through neglect/delayed trimming (transition being where hooves are unhealthy or less than optimum hoof form for performance.
- Abscessing
- Soaking boots and poulticing
- Foals with special trimming requirements
- Live case studies
- Assessment and examination of the horse
- Working with veterinarians – when to call the vet
- Monitoring vital signs (hydration, heart rate, pulse, temperature etc)
- Caring for injured lame horses
- Horse first aid kits – to travel with.
- Pain management (conventional and alternative)
- Common health problems:

*colic*

*mud fever*

*sunburn*

*coughs*

*lice*

*back pain*

*joint pain*

*skin conditions – rain scald*

- Worming
- Alternative therapies:



## **DETERMINE HORSES CONDITION AND NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Effect of feed on hooves. - signs and symptoms
- Reading food product and what s in it?
- Types of feed and grasses
- Poisonous plants
- Natural feeding position
- Basic digestive anatomy, stomach capacity etc
- Body condition scoring
- Feed requirements for performance/exercise, breeding stock, young
- Assess pasture feed – know species and safe grazing times
- Arrange supplementary feed- knowledge of minerals
- Manage the feeding of horses – consulting clients
- Monitor the feeding plan

## **FIRST AID AND OH&S ISSUES**

- Safety principles with horses
- Sexual harassment
- Health issues – transmitted diseases
- Safety equipment and tools used effectively
- Hazards to people and horses associated with trimming
- Reasons for good equipment and first aid kit
- Process workplace information
- Maintain information systems
- Implement and advise on health maintenance program
- Implement a program of care and maintenance for the hoof
- Manage the care of the horse applying knowledge of animal anatomy and physiology

## **RUNNING A BUSINESS**

- Customer service (highlighting horse/client relations, education)
- Respond to customer questions – be able to source information
- Establish pricing
- Identify customers special requirement, strategies for negotiating resistance
- Public speaking, developing a presentation strategy – industry promotion is practiced at all available opportunities
- Business Management.
- Marketing and promotion (personal presentation, business image, advertising your service, marketing tools, continual review of service, building repeat clientele, selling your service, public relations)
- Book keeping
- Record keeping & scheduling – Time management
- Territory management
- Maintaining customer base
- Develop product / service knowledge
- Advise and market boots and tools
- Recommend specialised products and services