



Treating laminitis according to Dallmer



Case history:

It must have been in 1974, when Helmuth Dallmer's horse Durban after a ride out steps onto a grass verge to avoid the last piece of asphalt.

The diagnosis: Acute laminitis.

The prescribed therapy: Lowering of the heels and shoeing after the „Bolz method“!!

The result: Durban immediately lays down in his box, unable to get up again.

When no improvement sets in, it becomes clear to Mr. Dallmer, that it is asking for trouble to put 8 nails each into an injured hoof. For his horse the shoeing after „the Bolz method“ has become utter horror. He grabs a pair of pliers and removes the horseshoes with its 16 hoof nails. The horse visibly relaxes. Following the example of inlay soles for people the entrepreneur Dallmer has his toolmakers manufacture a 15 mm thick plate of polypropylene according the form of the injured hooves and lets a 6 mm deep trough be milled into it so that a small edge remains. By chance, the street in front of his company is being asphalted. So Dallmer fills the trough with warm, soft tar and puts on a strong figure-of-eight bandage. The design holds and Durban gets up again.

Later the improvisation „tar“ gets replaced by padding and Durban's „inlay sole“ gets modified to a complete hoofshoe, the so called „Cuff“.

Shortly afterwards Helmuth Dallmer discovers looking at a specimen model of a horse's leg that wedges need to be a part of his laminitis therapy because the immediate raising of the heels by 2-3 cm using a wedge plate the deep flexor tendon gets relief and the padding hinders a rotation of the coffin bone.*

Thus, by observations and inventions, Dallmer didn't only help his horse Durban, whom he got to ride on quite a few hunts but without using a single hoof nail he has spared several thousand horses a lot of pain and has prolonged their lives.

* scientifically proven: Dissertation by Patrick Klunder, Berlin: Physikalische Auswirkungen der Trachtenhochstellung am Huf des Pferdes, 2000

Different forms of treating laminitis:

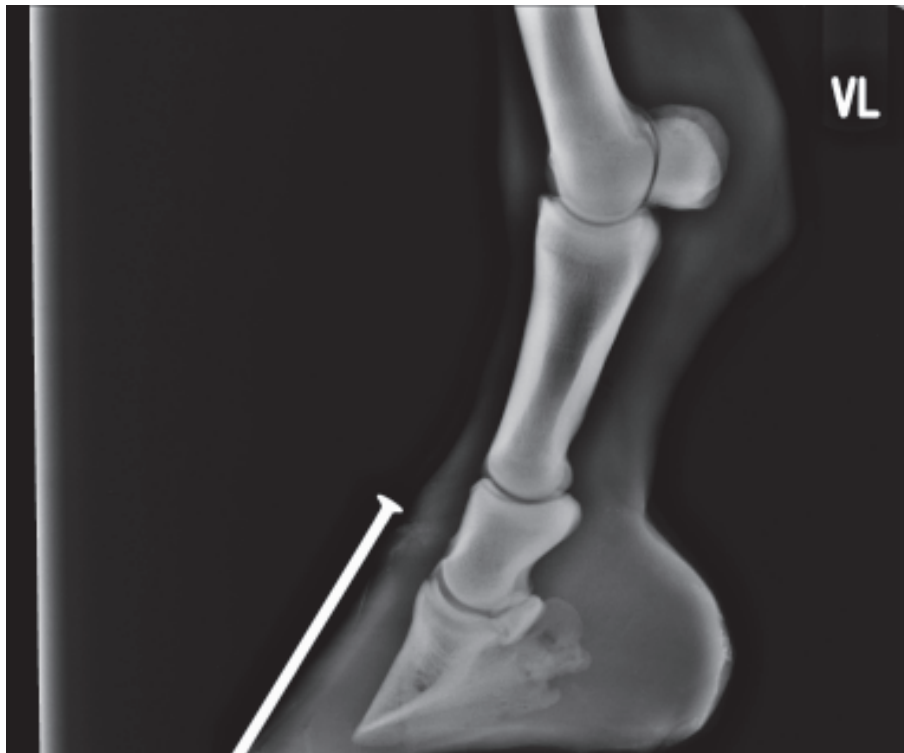
Worldwide the treating of laminitis is still nonuniform. Sometimes a „z-cut“ on the deep flexor tendon is being operatively performed. In Australia the deep tendon tendon is being severed (tenotomy). And some groups still lower the heels after „Bolz“ instead of raising them by 2-3 cm.

But especially in the last few years, Dallmer's method of raising the heels got more and more generally accepted as Dallmer's wedge with its arched footpoint lessens the strain on the deep flexor tendon, and the gentle therapy with the glue-on hoof protection minimizes additional damages to the laminae so that hoofnails in the injured hoof have become completely unnecessary.

Laminitic examination:

To evaluate the severity of a laminitic case certain measurements need to be performed by the veterinarian:

- palmar angle of the distal phalanx to the hoof capsule
- thickness of the sole (measured underneath the tip of the distal phalanx)
- distance between the outer hoof wall and the surface of the distal phalanx)
- drop of the distal phalanx in relation to the periople
- hight of the heels



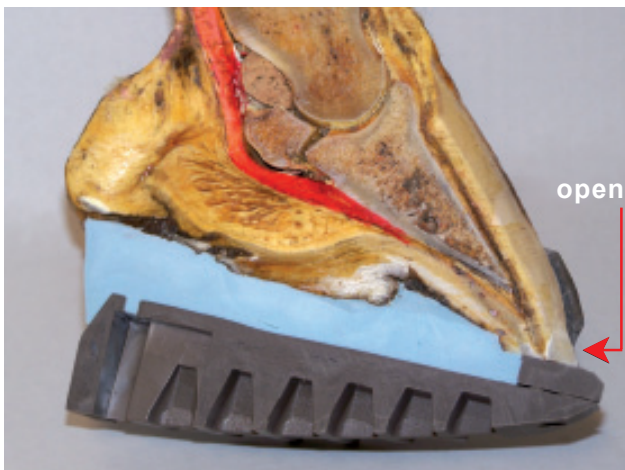
All of the parameters can be won from a high-quality x-ray photo.

Dressing the hoof:

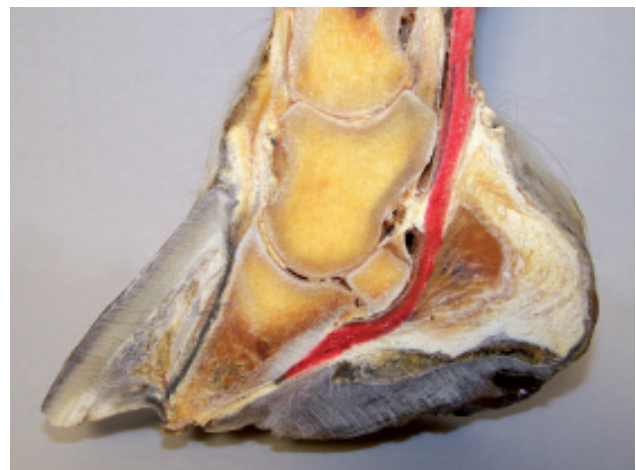
The immediate raising of the heels so that the angle of the distal phalanx is brought back to an acceptable degree plays a pivotal role in the dressing of the hoof according to Dallmer (see left photo).

This raising of the heels along with the use of nailless plastic shoes incl. wedge soles and wadding makes the laminitic treatment.

To re-establish the former position, the wedges are lowered step by step every four weeks by approx. 2 degrees so that muscles and soft tissues have time to heal without excessive stress. While doing this, it is absolutely necessary to work with x-rays.



Start of laminitic treatment with DALLMER wedge



Sole rupture after rotation

The wadding supports the sole and hinders a further sinking of the distal phalanx. By unscrewing the wedge plate the veterinarian can check the sole and renew the disinfection as well as the wadding at any time.

But please don't forget: The shoe's outer wall needs to be opened in the toeing area with a rasp or a toeing knife by 1 x 3 cm so that air can circulate and fluids can run out. Protect this opening from manure!

Later on, the glued-on DALLMER hoofshoe can easily be removed by heating up the wall of the shoe with a hair dryer or by rasping.

Only use pain relievers in agreement with the veterinarian.

Obviously, we wish that each horse will be spared this deadly disease. Should in the years to come a laminitic case occur, we certainly hope that we can convince the last doubter of this proven method of laminitic therapy.

Continuation of the treatment:

Once the horse is without pain and the raised heels have been gradually lowered so that the former position is re-established, the DALLMER hoofshoe with t-shaped steel inlay and its dynamic function offers a superior form of further treatment. Due to the hoof's covering with the hoofshoe, the horny box experiences a better elasticity than the shoeing of the horse with 8 hoofnails per hoof.



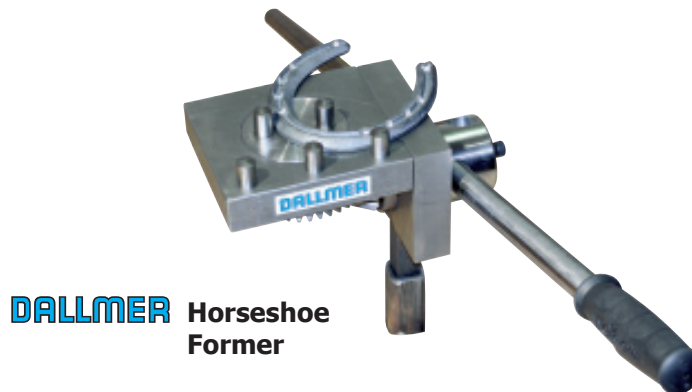
DALLMER Hoofshoe
with t-shaped steel inlay



DALLMER Cuff
with screwed-on horseshoe

In addition to that, thanks to its broad plastic sole, this hoofshoe offers a special sole comfort and a unique shock absorption.

With the help of the DALLMER Horseshoe Former the t-shaped steel inlay as well as any common horseshoe can be shaped according to the white line without any heat.



DALLMER Horseshoe Former

Danger of explosion, safety reasons in road traffic as well as cost-consciousness will lead to the fact that farriers will no longer carry gas ovens along and that the cold shoeing will become standard procedure. Here, the DALLMER Horseshoe Former offers a convincing alternative that allows an easy shaping with the highest precision.

For further information please contact:

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