

HEALTHY HOOVES - Start from the inside out.

Its easy to overlook the condition of your horses feet during the rainy season - you may think your horses' feet look healthy, when they are actually lacking the proper nutrients.

Proper nutrient supply is critical for hoof tissue quality and function. If nutrition is compromised either due to nutrient deficiency or an imbalance of overfeeding one or more nutrients, there is a potential for inferior tissue to be produced in the hoof.

Hoof problems associated with nutrient imbalance are thin walls, thin soles, cracking or flaking of the hoof wall, and disrupted hoof patterns in the hoof capsule.

A balanced diet that includes adequate amounts of protein, energy, vitamins, minerals, and water should be the starting point. Consult your veterinarian and local feed stores for information on balanced nutrition in your area before problems arise.

Your farrier can only work with the feet your horse has. Nutritionally it takes 6-8 months to see improvements in an already-damaged hoof. When there are wide open splits in the hoof, it indicates that the horse was lacking in nutrition and regular trimming. These cracks can leave the horse unsound and in pain, possibly leading to infections leaving it unsafe to ride.

It takes about a year of balanced nutrition and regular trimming before hooves can grow out to be smooth and healthy.

Don't wait for your next appointment, call Greg now. 517-262-6193.