

Hoof Cinch Eliminates Founder Pain, Realigns Hoof

Horse owners have an inexpensive option to relieve the pain - and to fix - founder and laminitis. Hoof Cinch is a patented, metal band that tightens around the front part of the hoof to prevent the hoof from flexing, which helps eliminate the pain.

"We are bringing the hoof back to normal," says Chuck Potter, a Minnesota farrier who invented the device after a year of research and development with his business partner, veterinarian Dr. Jan Doelle, DVM.

Instead of expensive traditional treatment, without a real solution for fixing the rotation, a \$60 Hoof Cinch set can be installed in minutes, and provide instant pain relief.

"Once it's rotated, the coffin bone (main foot bone) cannot be moved back to its original position," Potter says. "The Hoof Cinch stabilizes the hoof wall and forces the hoof wall growth back toward the coffin bone. As the hoof wall grows down along the coffin bone, it realigns with the rotated coffin bone. Since we cannot move the coffin bone back to the hoof wall, we move the hoof wall back

to the coffin bone."

After many hoof dissections with Dr. Doelle and learning how the hoof flexed, Potter experimented with his device and the proper placement.

"The very first was a miniature horse that had foundered and couldn't use her front feet at all. I made up tiny cinches and the next day she was running everywhere," Potter says.

Potter emphasizes that the Hoof Cinch doesn't fix the underlying problem causing laminitis or founder. Horse owners must work with a veterinarian to do blood testing to determine the cause, and come up with a treatment plan with medicine and/or diet, etc.

The Hoof Cinch is easy to install and remains on the hoof for at least 12-16 weeks, to allow the bone to realign. The bands come in three sizes for miniature/pony, standard and draft horses. The cost is \$60 per set, plus \$5 standard domestic shipping per order. International shipping is available at an additional cost. More in depth information, as well as installation videos can be found on



Metal band tightens around front part of hoof to keep it from flexing.

their website, www.hoofcinch.com.

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Airbags Give Oliver A Smooth Ride

C. Roger Podoll doesn't bounce around any more when he takes his 770 Oliver out to the woods, thanks to its air ride seat. Podoll works on trucks and semi tractors in his shop, giving him easy access to used suspension bladders. When an airbag on one side of a truck goes bad, the other is also replaced, even if it is still fine.

"I usually have a couple bags sitting around," says Podoll. "It took less than an hour to install one on my tractor."

Suspension air bags are essentially a rubberized fabric bellows set between two metal blocks. Podoll attached threaded rods to the blocks to mount the air bags between the pto shield and the seat.

Podoll fitted the airbags with a Schrader air valve to pump them up to 10 lbs. pressure.

"I let out air until it felt right," says Podoll. "The air does leak out after a couple of weeks but I can quickly pump them back up. If you used a new one, leaks would be no problem. But why buy new if you can make it for nothing or next to nothing?"

Podoll says the used suspension units have found lots of new uses. "I know one guy who uses an airbag for a tensioner on his baler," he adds.

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C. Roger Podoll made an air ride seat for his Oliver 770 using the airbag off a truck. It's mounted between tractor's pto shield and seat.