

Timeline of the Natural Hoof Care Movement

c. 500 BC - Xenophon describes characteristics of naturally worn hooves, barefoot hoof care program, and other facets of natural boarding.

c. 1800 AD - Dr. Bracy Clark describes essential characteristics of naturally worn hooves, his barefoot hoof care program, and suggestions for improving horseshoe designs.

1952 - Velma Johnson lobbies Nevada legislators successfully to pass law which bans use of air craft in rounding up wild horses in Story County, where she lived.

1955 - Johnson lobbies successfully for further protection of wild horses, banning capturing of wild horses in Story County except on public lands.

1959 - Public Law 86-234 is passed, known as “Wild Horse Annie Act,” the result of Velma Johnson's campaign to save America's wild horses. Intended to prevent the capture or destruction of wild horses using inhumane methods.

1971 - Public Law 92-195 is passed in 1971, signed by Richard Nixon, called the “Wild, Free-Roaming Horse & Burro Act,” which protected wild horses from “mustangers” and put management of wild horses under the Department of the Interior, specifically the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service.

1976 - BLM's Wild Horse Adopt-A-Horse Program (formerly conducted by Johnson's organization, the International Society for the Preservation of Mustangs and Burros) commences nationwide.

1976 - Jaime Jackson begins professional shoeing career in Arkansas; also becomes aware of wild horses for the first time in Missouri during a BLM adoption sale held there in 1976.

1976 - Public Law 94-579 is passed, known as “Federal Land Policy and Management Act,” which amends 1971 legislation.

1976 - Les Emery, Jim Miller, and Nyles Van Hoosen (DVM) publish the book, Horseshoeing Theory and Hoof Care (Lea & Febiger). This work speculates on “natural hoof” shape based on domestic range horses in eastern Oregon. Focus of book is navicular, however, using an elevated heel model (thought to be natural) for orthopedic shoeing.

1976 - Jackson contacts Emery the same year and discusses meaning of “natural hoof,” but as yet there is no discussion of wild horses or wild horse feet.

1976 - Wild Horse Annie dies of cancer, embittered over treatment of wild horses by BLM.

1978 - 1971 - legislation is further amended (final time) with the passage of Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PL 95-514). This is the last legislation passed to date that amends the Wild Horse Annie Act.

The foundation for a natural approach to hoof care was laid primarily by the work of two farriers. Jaime Jackson and Gene Ovnicsek independently conducted field research among feral mustangs in the 1980s.

1982 - Jaime Jackson enters central Nevada to observe wild horses for the first time on public lands.

[Note: during this time the BLM and the USFS begin “gathers” of “excessive” wild horses in public rangelands.

1983 - Jackson conducts first study of wild horse hooves at Litchfield, California. Does not publish findings. Discusses results with Emery, who encourages further investigation.

1984 - Jackson conducts second survey of wild horse hooves at Litchfield; continues visits to wild horse country to observe behavior, environment. Becomes aware for the first time of wild horse protection groups and government biologists studying mustang population control.

1985 - Jackson decides to write a “20 page” statistical paper on his hoof study (approximately 1,000 hooves sampled at Litchfield holding center) and, with Emery’s encouragement, offer his findings to various equine experts. Letters were sent to Dr. Chris Pollit, Dr. Ric Redden, Dr. Deb Bennett, Dr. Doug Butler, and the current President of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. There was no response, except Dr. Butler by phone, who thought the information might be meaningful.

1986 and 1987, farrier Gene Ovnicsek conducted a research study on the feet of feral or wild horses.

1988 – Les Emery and Jaime Jackson accept an invitation to speak before American Farriers Association National Convention at Lexington, KY. And jointly present Jackson's research before 1,000 farriers.

1992 – Jackson publishes “The Natural Horse: Lessons From The Wild For Domestic Horse Care.”

1992 - White Horse Farm in New Zealand was purchased and Andy Beck begins controlled wild horse behavior research.

1993 - Dr. Lennart Ostblom, a Danish navicular researcher, seeks assistance in locating wild horse herds to sample for comparative studies. BLM resistance to Ostblom's research protocols preclude research project.

[Note: during this period, in the early to late 1990's, the Journal of the American Farriers Association publishes approximately 10 articles written by Jackson on the subject of natural hoof care.]

1995 - Jackson is invited to speak at Ric Redden's Bluegrass Laminitis Symposium in Louisville, Kentucky.

1995 - "Color Atlas of the Horse's Foot" by Christopher C. Pollitt BVSc, PhD was published

1996 - On May 30th, Jackson receives a letter from E. Muller on behalf of Dr. Hiltrud Strasser, who had obtained Jackson's lecture notes, entitled, "Paradigm for the Naturally Shaped Hoof," from Redden's 1995 symposium. Strasser shares translations of her research, including her published paper, "The Functions of Hooves and their Importance for Care and Treatment," "The Practical Handling of the Unshod Hoof," and "New Aspects of Laminitis."

[Note: many letters are exchanged between Dr. Strasser, E. Muller (her translator and student), and Jackson, during the next two years. Jackson provides Strasser with a wild horse hoof biospecimen obtained in Nevada. During this period, Sabine Kells travels to Germany from Canada to meet Dr. Strasser. Together they collaborate to write "A Lifetime of Soundness."]

1998 - "A Lifetime of Soundness" is published by Strasser. Star Ridge Publishing becomes the first U.S. distributor of Dr. Strasser's books.

1998 - Gene Ovnicek publishes "New Hope for Soundness."

1999 - Jackson publishes "Horse Owners Guide To Natural Hoof Care."

1999 - Randi and Gene Peters publish the first issue of "Natural Horse" magazine.

1999 - Dr. Chris Pollit states at the Geneva International Laminitis Symposium that the hooves of wild equids must have great resistance to laminitis, possibly due to the environmental pressure of predators.

1999 - Jackson travels to Germany and Switzerland to meet with Strasser and the Swiss Horse Boot Company.

2000 - Dr. Ric Redden organizes a team to study wild horse hooves in Nevada. Independently, Dr. Robert Bowker (Michigan State University) organizes a team to study wild horse hooves, also in Nevada.

2000 - Star Ridge Publishing sponsors Strasser hoof care seminars in the U.S.

2000 - James and Yvonne Welz launch "The Horse's Hoof" magazine.

2001 - Nineteen years after Jackson entered wild horse country, Redden reports his wild horse hoof findings, entitled, "A Closer Look At Wild Horse Hooves," at his annual Bluegrass Laminitis Symposium. This is the first actual study to corroborate Jackson's earlier research.

2001 - Dr. Pollitt writes the textbook "Equine Laminitis."

2002 – The American Association of Natural Hoof Care Practitioners (AANHCP) is founded by Jaime Jackson, Nancy Jackson, Richard Drewry, Pete Ramey, Cindy Sullivan, Steve Dick, and Ruth Green.

2003 - "The Horse Crucified and Risen" a movie by Alexander Nevzorov and Nevzorov Haute Ecole is released.

2003 - "Metal in the Mouth. The Abusive Effects of Bitted Bridles" by W. Robert Cook & Hiltrud Strasser was published

2003 - "Making Natural Hoof Care Work for You" by Pete Ramey was published.

2003 - Katy Watts launches Safergrass.org, a web site dedicated to research on the connection between forage, forage management and equine laminitis.

2003 - The International Institute of Equine Podiatry, Inc., a school dedicated to the study of the equine foot, was co-founded by KC and Robyn La Pierre. The Institute was incorporated.

2005 - "THE UNFETTERED FOOT: A paradigm change for equine podiatry" by Tomas G. Teskey, D.V.M. is published marking the beginning of a significant shift in the veterinary industry.

2005 – Cindy Sullivan is invited to speak at the American Holistic Veterinary medical Association (AHVMA) annual conference in Ogden, Utah.

2005 thru **2007** Pete Ramey gives Natural Hoof Care clinics in the U.S. and around the world.

2006 - Pete Ramey's Natural Hoof Care clinic was approved for 20 hours Continuing Education for Veterinarians through RACE (Registry of Approved Continuing Education) part of the AABSV (American Association of Veterinary State Boards).

2006 - Natural Horse Planet Magazine, an international hard copy magazine was launched in France, edited by Andy Beck.

2006 - The Equine Sciences Academy is founded by Derry McCormick, Cindy Sullivan and Steve Dick.

2006 – The American hoof Association (AHA) is launched.

2007 - Alternative Horse Magazine was launched, edited by Andy Beck.

2007 - Pete Ramey released DVD series "Under the Horse."

"All too little attention has been paid to the 'natural' foot.
That's the way he was made, that's the way he should go."

- **J.R. Rooney, DVM**
author, The Lamé Horse (© 1998)