



A Team Approach to Excellence in Hoof Care

The horse owner, veterinarian, and farrier work together to provide comprehensive care for your horse's hoof health and overall well-being. Mutual respect and clear communication are keys to successful teamwork.

The owner knows what is "usual" or "normal" for a particular horse and shares this information. The vet and farrier listen and ask questions to clarify and evaluate the situation and decide upon a course of action.



AMERICAN FARRIER'S ASSOCIATION

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Team Approach

Hoof Care with a Difference



Dechra Veterinary Products is committed to developing new products and services that support the equine industry and continue to invest in products and added-value services that deliver our promise to veterinary professionals and owners. Dechra currently markets key equine products including OSPHOS® (clodronate injection) which is an intramuscular bisphosphonate injection indicated for the clinical signs associated with navicular syndrome in horses. Often a career ending disease, this product has helped many horses get back in the show ring. Our goal is to educate the veterinarian and owner and with our partnership with the American Farrier's Association and their members we can accomplish this.

For more information please visit www.dechra-us.com or call 1-866-933-2472. For more information specifically on OSPHOS, please visit www.osphos.com.



Accessing the best care for your horse

The Owner-Vet-Farrier Team



The Team Members

Owner — You are an integral part of the team. As the owner, you possess the most valuable insight and history specific to your horse. The information you are able to share will better enable the vet and farrier to thoroughly access and approach your horse's hoof care.

Veterinarian — The veterinarian you want on your horse's team should have a broad understanding not only of equine anatomy, physiology, and pathology, but also up-to-date diagnostic tools and knowledge of medical and surgical treatments. Your veterinarian should be well versed in trimming/shoeing principles and farrier terms.

Farrier — A well-qualified farrier's expertise includes a thorough understanding of equine anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, and forging skills. Farriers improve their knowledge base and skills and learn about advances in modern materials and quality hoof care by attending hammer-ins, forging contests, clinics, farrier conventions, and multi-disciplinary symposiums. There are many certifications available. The AFA offers the Certified Journeyman Farrier test which is internationally recognized as a high standard of work.

Communication and Respect

Good communication makes it easier for the owner-vet-farrier team to identify the best possible shoeing option. Ideally, your team should evaluate your horse together, in person. It is important for the vet and farrier to speak directly with each other and not just through the client. All the knowledge in the world will not translate to success if good communication is lacking.

The vet should convey his or her findings and treatment recommendations clearly and without assigning blame. If the vet concludes that a shoeing change is in order, all three members of the team should take part in the discussion while remaining open minded, listening carefully, and rationally discussing concerns or disagreements. A productive approach focuses on desired results, rather than exact techniques.

Begin the discussion with the goals of the treatment plan. As you formulate a plan, remember that sometimes Plan A may not prove successful; therefore a Plan B should be agreed upon as well. Remain a team. Stay focused on what it will take to reach the end goal of assuring the horse's comfort and well-being.

Preparedness

Being prepared for each shoeing or evaluation means all parties are on time for a scheduled appointment, and the owner has the horse ready with clean, dry legs and feet. The vet and farrier should have the right tools and supplies, and each member of the team should allow enough time for the visit.

Key Points to Remember

- Each member of the team has valuable knowledge, experience, and insight to share.
- Respect for individual viewpoints fosters cooperation.
- Clear and concise communication means a greater likelihood of reaching the best possible shoeing option for the horse.
- Thoughtful preparation sets the tone for the meeting: the owner, veterinarian, and farrier are prepared for the exam and the shoeing.
- It may take more than one plan to help the horse — don't find fault, but continue to work as a team, keeping the goal in mind.
- Don't lose sight of the age-old adage — three heads are better than one!

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Assuring Your Horse's Comfort and Well Being