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| **HOOF TRIMMING IN CATTLE** |
| The following procedure explained below is known as the “Dutch 5-Step Trimming Method”. From the 5 steps the first 3 steps are used as routine or preventative trimming, while the last two steps are used as treatment or curative trimming (for treating defects). Procedure commences after proper preoperative procedures and leg restraint. |
| **Procedure**  ***Routine Steps***  **Step 1:** Using a hoof knife cut back the inner claw to a length of 7.5 cm from the coronet, where the horn starts. The cut must be perpendicular to the sole. Trim back the sole to a thickness of 0.5 - 0.8 cm at the tip of the toe and leave the thickness of the bulb or heel as it was. Save the height of the heel.  **Step 2:** Cut back the length of the outer claw to the same length as the inner claw and trim the sole to an equal height as the inner claw (if possible). In case of a buckled toe (laminitic claw) it is not always possible to reach the same height in the toe. The heel or bulb is more important, because it bears most of the weight.  **Step 3:** *Modeling***-** Trim the claws into a slightly hollow shape, starting 2.5 to 3 cm from the toe towards the heel. This will keep the space between the claws clean and airy (preventing inter-digital dermatitis / slurry heel).  **Treatment Steps**  **Step 4:** *Curative Step-*If there is a defect like sole ulcer and or wall ulcer this claw must be trimmed down further.  This creates a height difference between the healthy and damaged claw and the weight bearing is partly transferred to the healthy claw.  The damaged claw can heal more quickly. In case of too little height difference a block may be applied to the healthy claw to raise its height. In case of bruising of the sole, a height difference can be made, but don’t trim the sole too thin. In step two the excess weight is removed and this is normally enough relief for the claw. Step 4 is not needed during preventative trimming.  **Step 5:**  Remove loose horn and hard ridges at the heel area of the claws. Be careful in the inner claw: here only the fissures in the heel are removed, any further loose horn is not a problem. Removing it will affect the stability and the height of the claw. In the outer claw loose horn and ridges have to be removed in the last two-thirds of the sole surface. At last check the feet for digital dermatitis.  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9bI6EEtdqM> |

  

Step 1 Step 2 Step 3

**Dutch 5-Steps to Hoof Trimming**

 

Step 4 Step 5