HOOF BLOCK APPLICATION

First, we start with the WHY we apply hoof blocks?

Hoof blocks are applied to the unaffected hoof to effectively remove weight bearing, provide protection and alleviate discomfort from the lame hoof by raising the healthy limb forcing the animal to bear more weight on it. They are designed to wear down from the animal walking on it after a period of time – usually providing sufficient rest to the damaged hoof. Hoof blocks are commonly used in the treatment of toe, heel and sole ulcer-derived lameness but can be used to alleviate weight bearing from a damaged limb in any pathological conditions.

What are they?

Bovine hoof blocks are simple carvings (made of wood or rubber) to mimic the shape of the underside of an animals hoof. Additional craftsmanship may be required to carve the block to the specific hoof.

When are they used?

Hoof blocks are commonly used in the treatment of toe, heel and sole ulcer-derived lameness but can be used to alleviate weight bearing from a damaged limb in any pathological conditions.

How are they applied?

The hooves are both trimmed adequately according to hoof trimming protocol discussed in our CMAP.

The Hoof Block is measured, and adequate adjustments are made if necessary, to ensure proper fitment on the hoof it is being applied to.

Mix glue material in the correct ratio and apply it to or on the hoof block.

**Apply block to the heel of the healthy hoof so the weight bearing part of the heel is covered.**

Mold glue to avoid sharp edges and ensure that the block will land flat on the ground when the animal walks. Wait for the block to dry and harden and examine animals’ posture, gait and overall demeanor to ensure successful application.

Images of common Hoof Blocks are as follows;



