**DUTCH 5 STEP METHOD**

The Dutch 5 Step Method (created by developed by Dr. E. Toussaint Raven, a veterinarian with the University of Utrecht in The Netherlands,) describes a method of hoof trimming that allows us to replicate hoof trimming in a timely, safe and effective manner. As the name describes, there are 5 steps in doing so, they are split into *Routine Hoof Trimming* and *Corrective Hoof Trimming*.

**Routine Hoof Trimming**

1. The toe length is trimmed to 7.5cm; Cut at right angles to the sole so the cut is square across the toe (cut 1). Then cut the horn of the sole so the cut edge of the toe is 7mm in depth (cut 2). The white line should appear as a ring around the edge of the toe. For hind limbs, trim the medial claw first, for front feet trim the outer claw first. Use the knife handle to ensure the sole surface is flat. If the sole begins to look pink it is getting too thin, press on the sole with your knife handle to assess the thickness of the sole. This corrects toe overgrowth and foot angle
2. Match untrimmed claw, to trimmed claw ; At hind limb this would mean matching the medial claw to the lateral and *vice versa* in the forelimbs. This is so as in the hind limb the majority of weight bearing takes place in the lateral claw and forelimb the medial claw. The non-weight bearing claw will be easier to trim and contain less pathology so it is used to model the weight bearing claw.
3. Dish out soles; Hollow out the non-weight bearing surface between the white line and the heels on both claws. This allows the walls to bear the most weight, and not the ulcer site.

**Corrective Trimming**

1. Relieve weight off painful claw ; this involves investigations to identify the site of hoof pain and can include the use of hoof testers – Metal plier like instruments used to apply pressure to the hoof, which when there is pain the cow can flinch or attempt to retract the limb. Additional signs of pain include redness and swelling around an area.
2. Remove loose/under run horn and hard ridges ; This is to prevent pain associated with the lesion when the animal is walking. Rasp the edges of the claws to prevent trauma to the cows teats or legs.