

A close-up photograph of a horse's hoof. The hoof is dark brown and shows signs of wear. A prominent white, circular abscess is visible on the sole of the hoof, near the coronary band. The background is a blurred, natural outdoor setting with dirt and grass.

THE SUBSOLAR ABSCESS

A cow stepped on a nail a few weeks prior. The farmer removed the nail. Infection present. Subsolar abscess formed.



What is the importance of lameness in cattle?

Lameness tends to be a common problem in cattle of all ages. This can be viewed as an animal welfare concern.

More importantly, in the food animal industry, this leads to loss to the farmer since there would be decreased weight gain, weight loss and cost of treatment.



The Subsolar Abscess

- Commonly due to white line disease or trauma/penetration of the hoof
- The animal can be non-weight bearing lame and not have any swelling in the leg/foot.
- There is bacterial growth beneath the sole.
- To resolve this, the abscess must be pared (outer skin cut) and then drained.
- Severity of the situation will determine if the foot is bandaged and if antibiotics or NSAIDs given.

The Hoof GP: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWIs8oDNvR4>

