



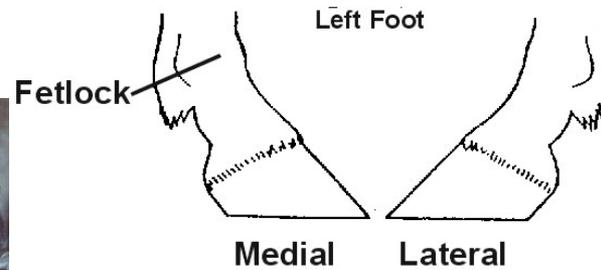
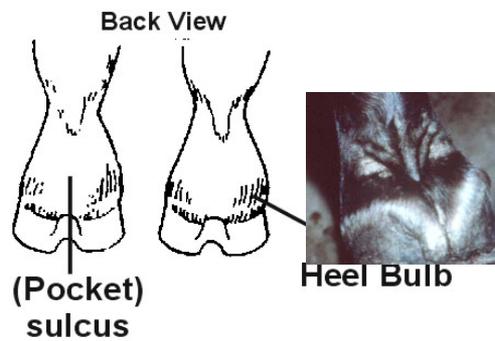
USDA-APHIS Animal Care
Horse Protection Program
Designated Qualified Persons (DQP)
Training

What will be covered?

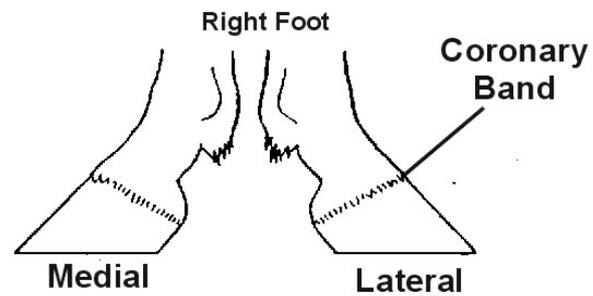
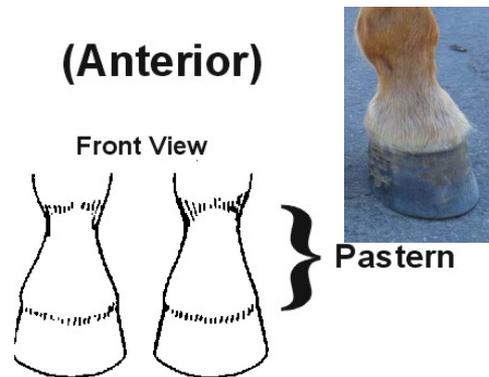
- Definition of a sore horse
- General and Specific prohibitions
- Scar rule
- Inspection Procedures

Directional terms

(Posterior)

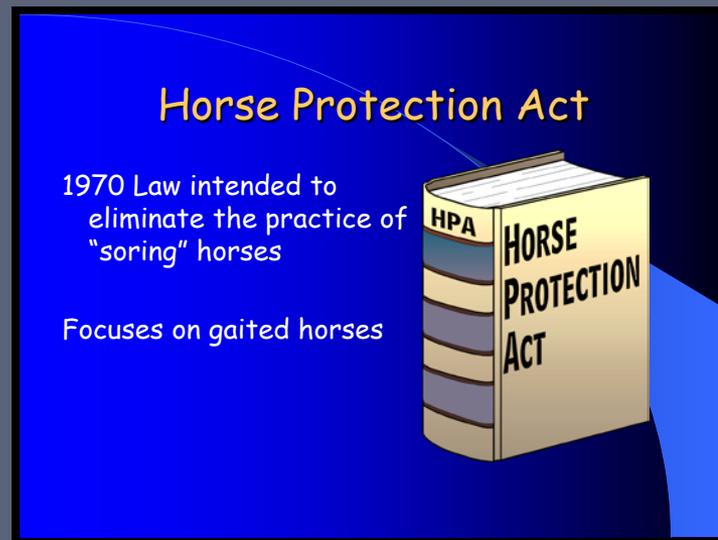


(Anterior)



Definition of a sore horse

- The word **sore** is a legal term. It was defined by Congress in the Horse Protection Act (HPA).



Horse Protection Act of 1970

Section 3

The Congress finds and declares that - -

- (1) the **soring** of horses is cruel and inhumane;
- (2) horses shown or exhibited which are sore, where such soreness improves the performance of such horse, compete unfairly with horses which are not sore;
- (3) the movement, showing, exhibition, or sale of sore horses in intrastate commerce adversely affects and burdens interstate and foreign commerce;
- (4) all horses which are subject to regulation under this Act are either in interstate or foreign commerce or substantially affect such commerce; and
- (5) regulation under this Act by the Secretary is appropriate to prevent and eliminate burdens upon commerce and to effectively regulate commerce.

Definition of a sore horse

- The HPA defines a horse as being sore when one or more of the following conditions have been met:

Definition of a sore horse

- An irritating or blistering agent has been applied, internally or externally, by a person to any limb of a horse
- Any burn, cut or laceration has been inflicted by a person on any limb of a horse
- Any tack, nail, screw or chemical agent has been injected into or used on any limb of a horse by a person

This product is an antiseptic ointment recommended as an aid in the treatment of superficial wounds, cuts, abrasions, and for the protection against scarring. This product keeps skin clean, soft, and pliable during the healing process.

INGREDIENTS: LANOLIN, WHITE CAMPHOR OIL, WINTERGREEN OIL, MENTHOL, ZINC OXIDE, CETYL ALCOHOL, PETROLATUM



Definition of a sore horse

- Any other substance or device or practice that has been used by a person on any limb of a horse which causes or can reasonably be expected to cause the horse to suffer physical pain, distress, inflammation or lameness when walking, trotting or otherwise moving.

Definition of a sore horse

- Inflammation is a local response to injury that may be marked by one or more of the following signs:
 - Pain
 - Heat
 - Swelling
 - Redness
 - Loss of function

Definition of a sore horse

- The term “sore” **does not** include any application, infliction, injection or practice performed in connection with the therapeutic treatment of a horse by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.



Some indicators of pain

- Consistent and repeatable withdrawal responses to palpation
- Reluctance to lead
- Gait abnormalities or problems with locomotion
- Abnormal reactions of the eyes, ears and head in response to palpation

Some indicators of pain

- Tucking of flanks
- Flexing of abdominal muscles
- Shifting of weight to the rear legs
- Stepping forward with the rear limbs while the front limbs remain lightly planted
- Excessive perspiration on the skin and hair coat
- Changes in the depth and rate of respiration

General prohibitions

- Any device, method, practice or substance that causes or can reasonably be expected to cause a horse to be sore is prohibited.

Specific prohibitions

Prohibited action devices:

- All beads, bangles, rollers and similar devices – **except** rollers of uniform size, weight and configuration made of hardwood, aluminum or stainless steel and weighing 6 ounces or less



Specific prohibitions

- Chains weighing more than 6 ounces
- Chains with twisted or double links, or with links not of uniform size and weight
- Chains with drop links



Specific prohibitions

- Multiple action devices on any limb
- Action devices that are not smooth and free of protrusions; and devices with rough or sharp edges
- Action devices that strike the coronary band



Specific prohibitions

- Boots or collars with protrusions or swellings; plus rigid, rough, sharp edges or seams
- Boots or collars weighing more than 6 ounces – except soft rubber or leather bell boots used for protective purposes

Specific prohibitions

Prohibitions on shoeing:

- Shoeing or hoof trimming that can reasonably be expected to cause a horse to suffer pain or distress
- Any object or material inserted between the pad and the hoof other than acceptable hoof packing

Specific prohibitions

- Pads not made of leather, plastic or other pliant material
- Weights attached to the outside of the hoof wall, horse shoe or any portion of the pad (However, the regulations provide an exception for “the bottom surface within the horseshoe”.)
- Single or double rocker bars on the bottom surface of horse shoes extending more than 1½ inches back from the point of the toe



Specific prohibitions

- Metal hoof bands placed less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the coronary band
- Metal hoof bands that can be easily loosened or tightened



Specific prohibitions

- Artificial extensions of toe length that exceed 50% of natural hoof length

(The use of “poly” and other hoof-building methods, combined with “hoof black” polish, has made this very difficult to determine.)

- Toe length that does not exceed the height of the heel by 1 inch or more



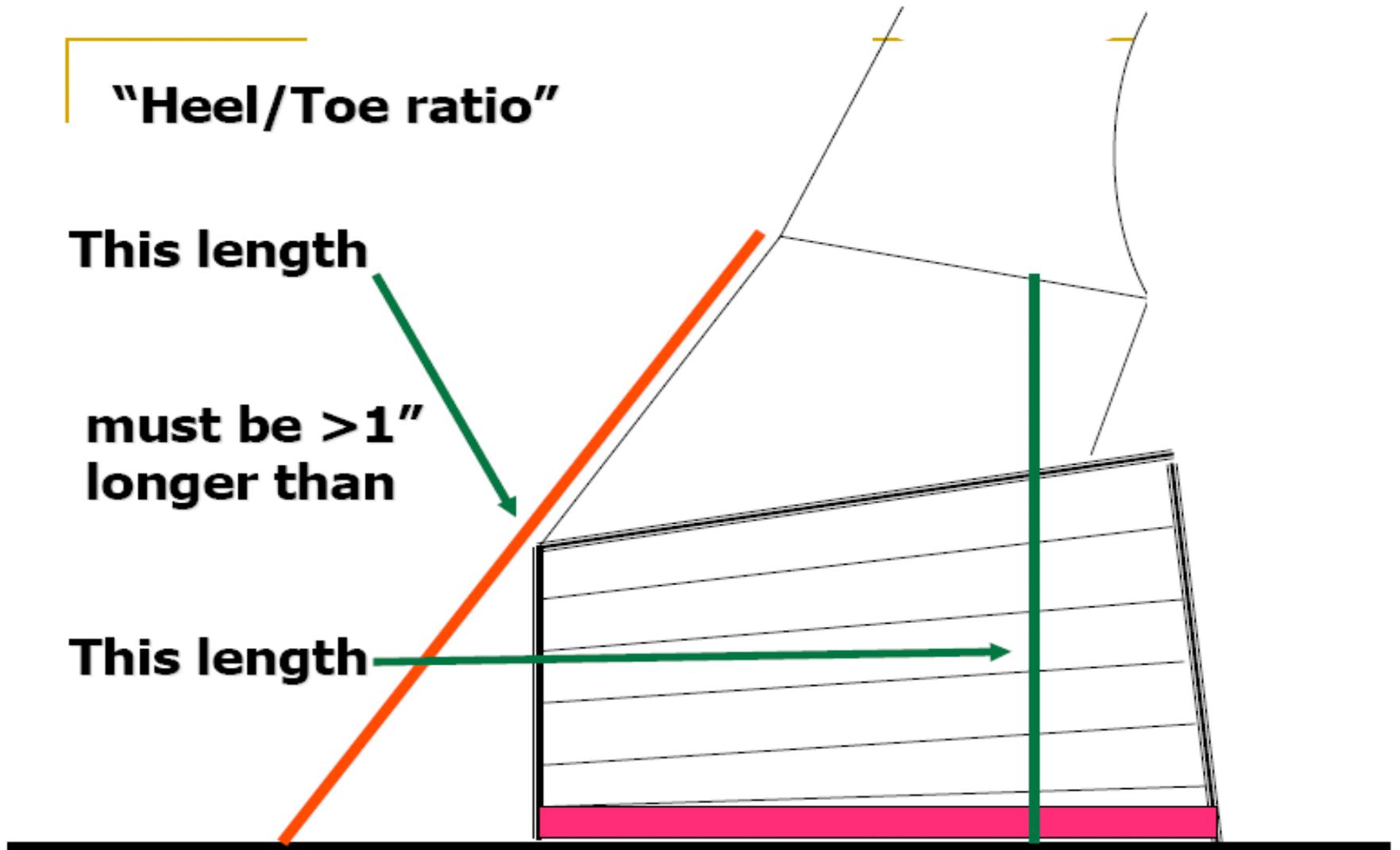
Heel / Toe

"Heel/Toe ratio"

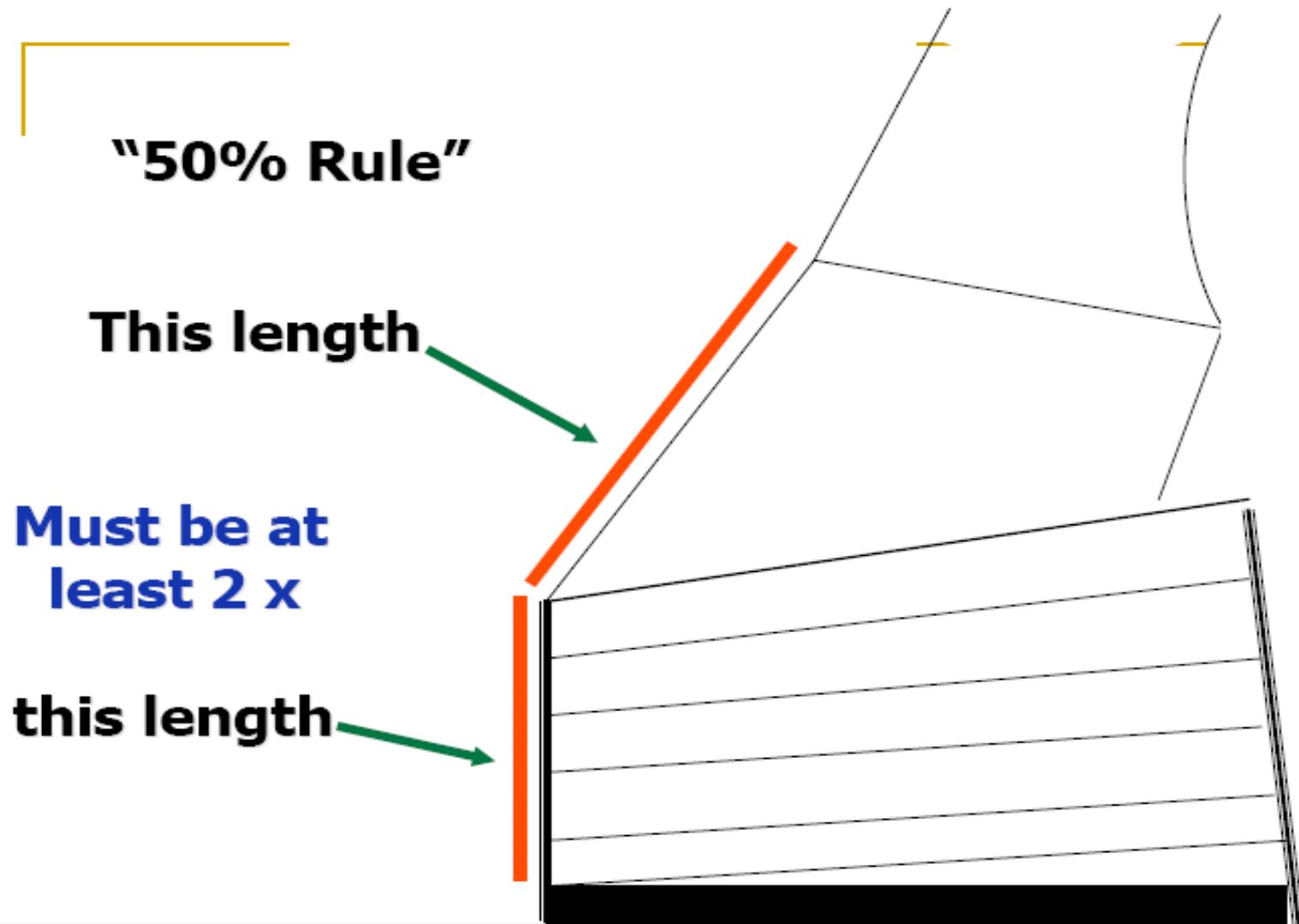
This length

**must be >1 "
longer than**

This length



50% Rule



Specific prohibitions

Prohibitions on yearlings:

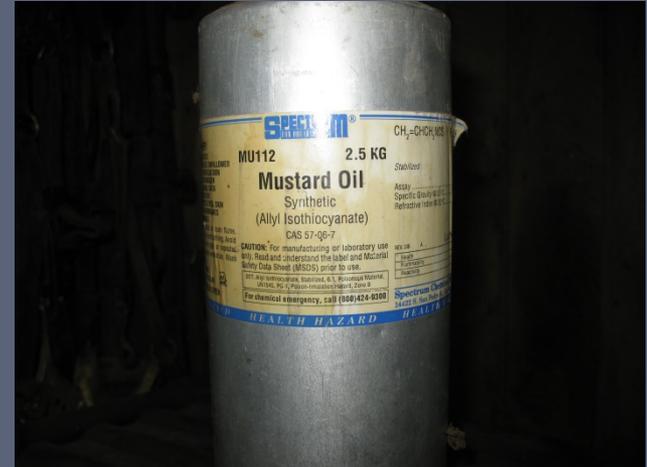
- Pads or other devices that elevate or change the angle of the hoof more than 1 inch at the heel
- Any weight except a keg or similar shoe, and any shoe weighing more than 16 ounces



Approved lubricants

- Mineral oil
- Glycerin
- Petrolatum
- Mixtures of the above

(The use of any substance other than these is a **foreign substance violation** of the HPA.)



Approved lubricants

- Horse show management must furnish all lubricants and maintain control over them.
- Approved lubricants can be applied only after the horse has been inspected, and only in an area under the supervision of the DQP.

Prohibited substances

- Substances on the legs above the hoof – except glycerin, petrolatum or mineral oil – are prohibited. This includes visible signs of prohibited substances transferred to your hands.
- Prohibited substances are not allowed on a horse's leg at any time on the show or sale grounds.



Scar Rule

Section 11.3 of the HPA regulations:

The scar rule applies to all horses born on or after Oct. 1, 1975. Horses subject to this rule that do not meet the following scar rule criteria shall be considered to be **sore** and are subject to all prohibitions of the HPA. The scar rule criteria are as follows:

(a) The anterior and anterior-lateral surfaces of the fore pasterns (extensor surface) must be free of bilateral granulomas, other bilateral pathological evidence of inflammation, and other bilateral evidence of abuse indicative of soring including, but not limited to, excessive loss of hair.

(b) The posterior surfaces of the pasterns (flexor surface), including the sulcus or “pocket,” may show bilateral areas of uniformly thickened epithelial tissue if such areas are free of proliferating granuloma tissue, irritation, moisture, edema or other evidence of inflammation.

Scar Rule

Section 11.3 of the HPA regulations:

- **Granuloma** is defined as any one of a rather large group of fairly distinctive focal lesions that are formed as a result of inflammatory reactions caused by biological, chemical, or physical agents.

Scar Rule

- The anterior surface must be free of:
 - Bilateral granulomas or other bilateral pathological evidence of inflammation on the anterior and anterior-lateral surfaces of the fore pasterns (extensor surface)
 - Abuse indicative of soring
 - Excessive hair loss

Scar Rule

- The posterior surface must be free of:
 - Bilateral areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces of the pasterns (flexor surface)
 - Proliferating granuloma tissue – lesions formed as a result of inflammatory reactions
 - Moisture – serum, exudate (fluid)
 - Edema – localized swelling
 - Evidence of inflammation: pain, heat, swelling, redness, loss of function

Scar Rule

- Horses found to be in violation of the scar rule are legally **sore**.
- Keep in mind that for a horse to be out of compliance with the scar rule, it must be out of compliance on both forelimbs.
- Each limb is evaluated independently, and the lesions need not be the same nor similar on both forelimbs to constitute a scar rule violation.

Scar Rule

Scar rule compliance will be determined (in accordance with the regulations) by:

- Visual examination
- Physical examination, including palpation and assessment of the skin
 - If abnormal tissue is detected, attempt to spread the tissue by palpating along any raised tissue and also across (perpendicular to) the raised tissue

Scar Rule

Compliant

34

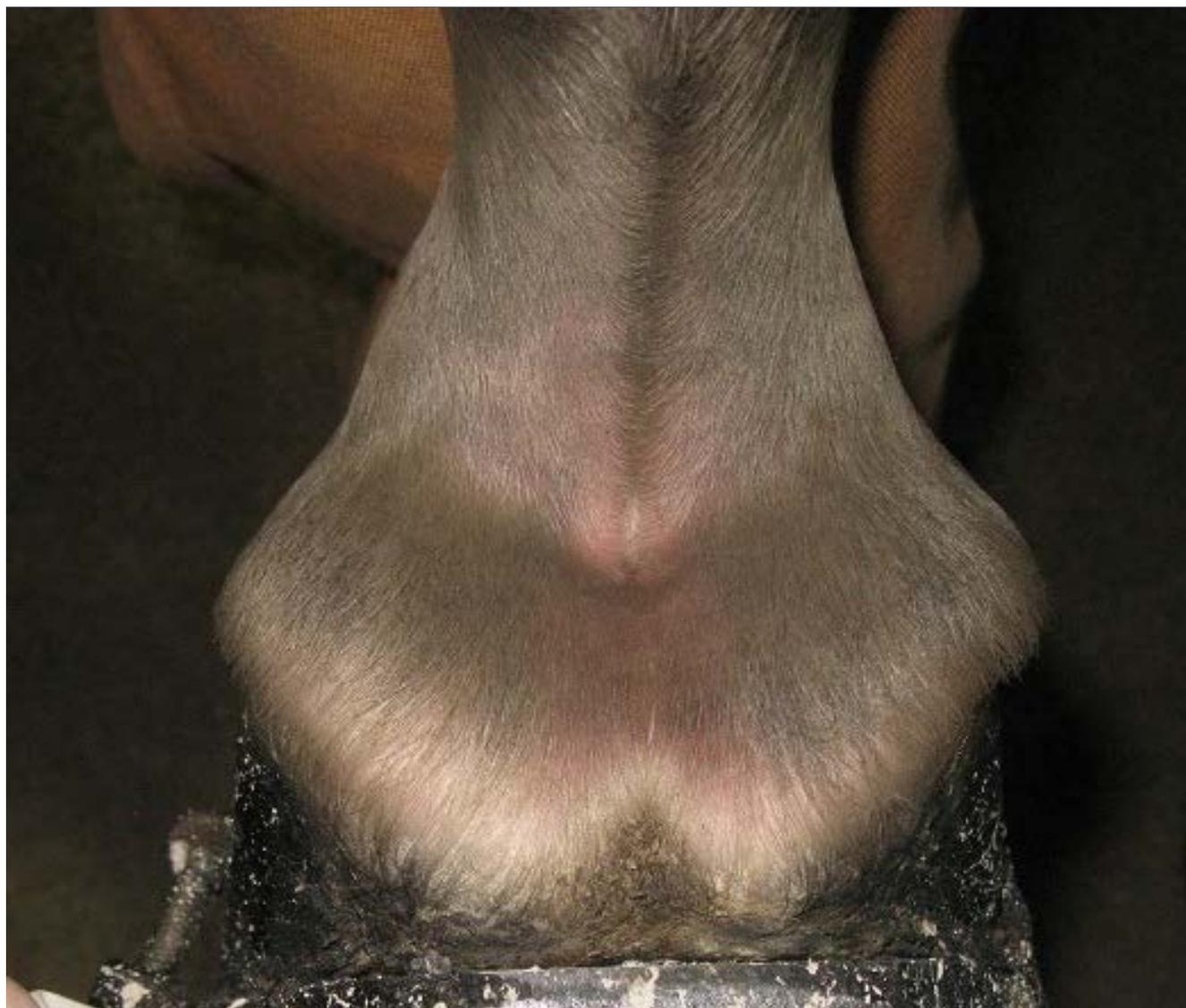
Normal Pastern

Determination made
by:

Visual examination

and

A thorough physical
examination,
including palpation
and assessment of
the skin



Scar Rule

This pastern had areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces as evidenced by multiple granulomas that radiated upward and outward.

Non-Compliant

35

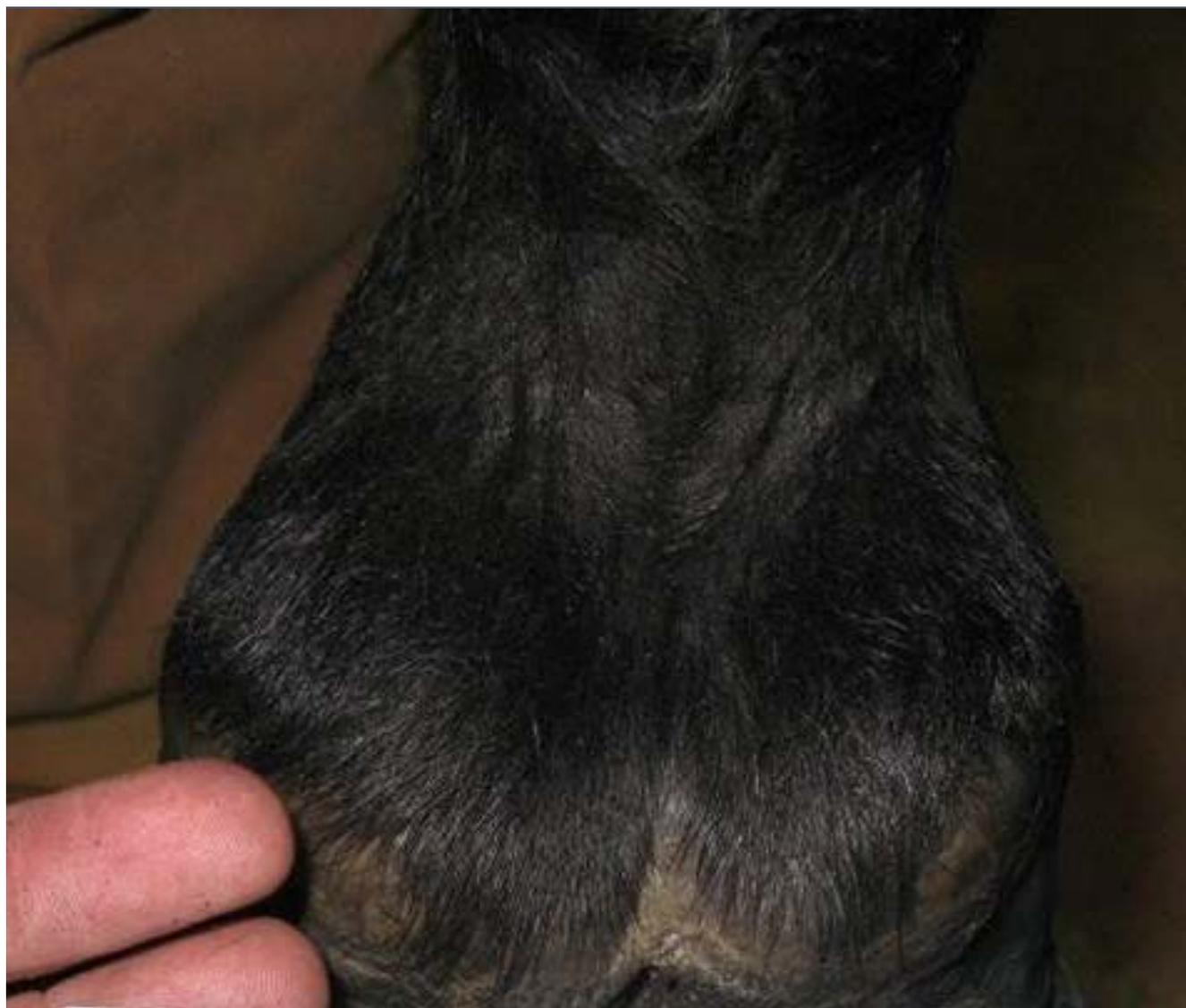


Scar Rule

This pastern had areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces as evidenced by vertical granulomas left of the midline and granulomas right of the midline that radiated upward and outward.

Non-Compliant

36



Scar Rule

Non-Compliant

37

This pastern had areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces as evidenced by multiple areas of proliferating granuloma tissue. In addition, there was evidence of inflammation characterized by irritation, redness and edema.



Scar Rule

This pastern had areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces as evidenced by multiple areas of proliferating granuloma tissue.

Non-Compliant

38



Scar Rule

Compliant

39

Normal Pastern

Determination made
by:

Visual examination

and

A thorough physical
examination,
including palpation
and assessment of
the skin



Scar Rule

This pastern had areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces as evidenced by the multiple vertical ridges of proliferating granuloma tissue.

Non-Compliant



Scar Rule

This pastern had areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces as evidenced by the multiple areas ridges of proliferating granuloma tissue on both sides of the midline. In addition, there was evidence of inflammation characterized by irritation and redness.

Non-Compliant

41



Scar Rule

This pastern had areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces as evidenced by the multiple areas of proliferating granuloma tissue. The granulomas are lighter in color in the photograph.

Non-Compliant

42



Scar Rule

This pastern had areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces as evidenced by granulomas that radiated upward and outward. In addition, there was evidence of inflammation characterized by redness and irritation. There was also dried exudate in many areas.

Non-Compliant

43



Scar Rule

Compliant

44

Normal Pastern

Determination made
by:

Visual examination

and

A thorough physical
examination,
including palpation
and assessment of
the skin



Scar Rule

This pastern had multiple vertical granulomas on the anterior-lateral portion of the pastern. There are at least five granulomas that are separated by the lighter hair lines in the furrows between the ridges.

Non-Compliant

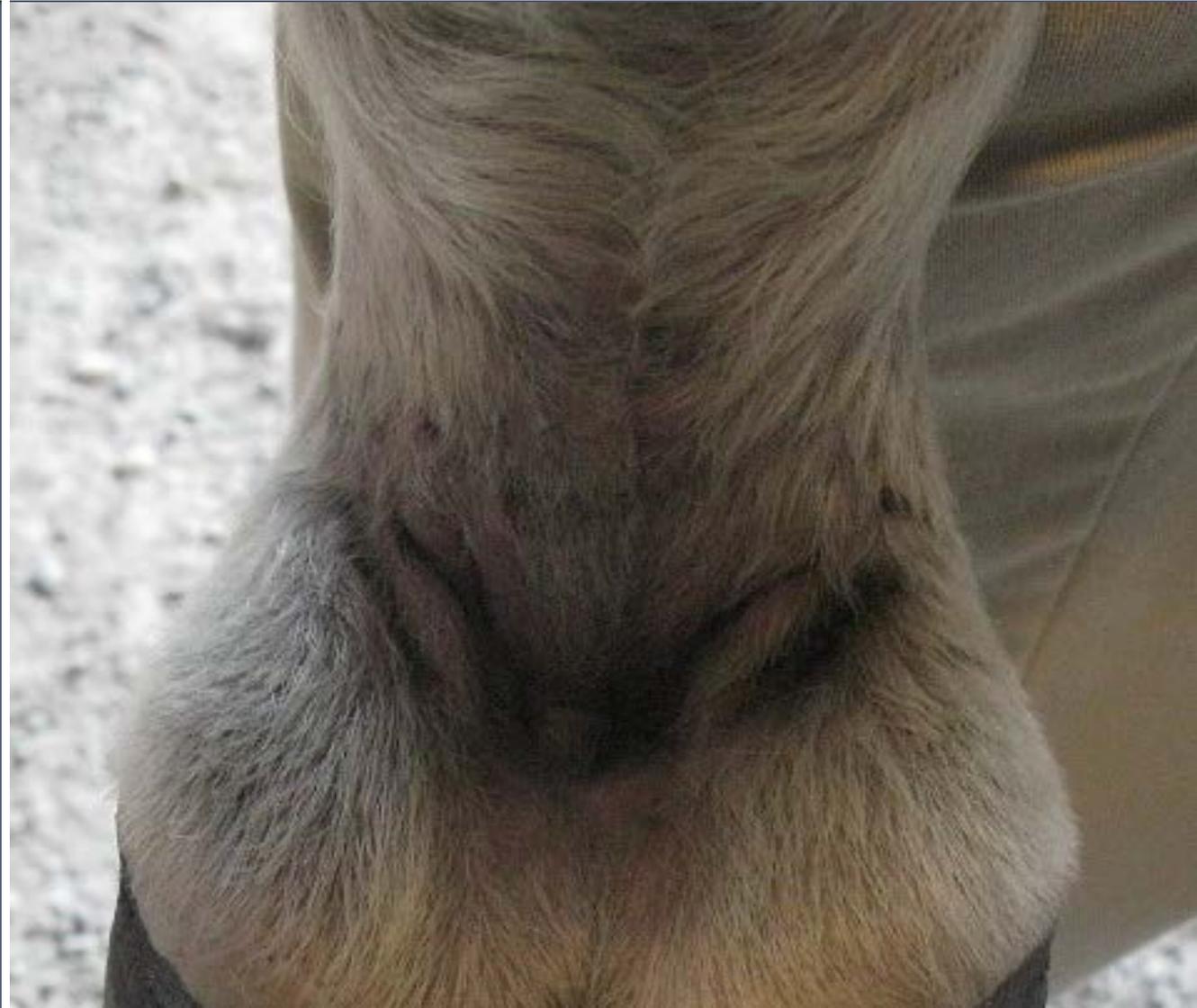


Scar Rule

This pastern had areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces as evidenced by granulomas above the heel bulbs that radiated upward and outward.

Non-Compliant

46



Scar Rule

This pastern had areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces as evidenced by multiple granulomas that radiated upward and outward.

Non-Compliant

47

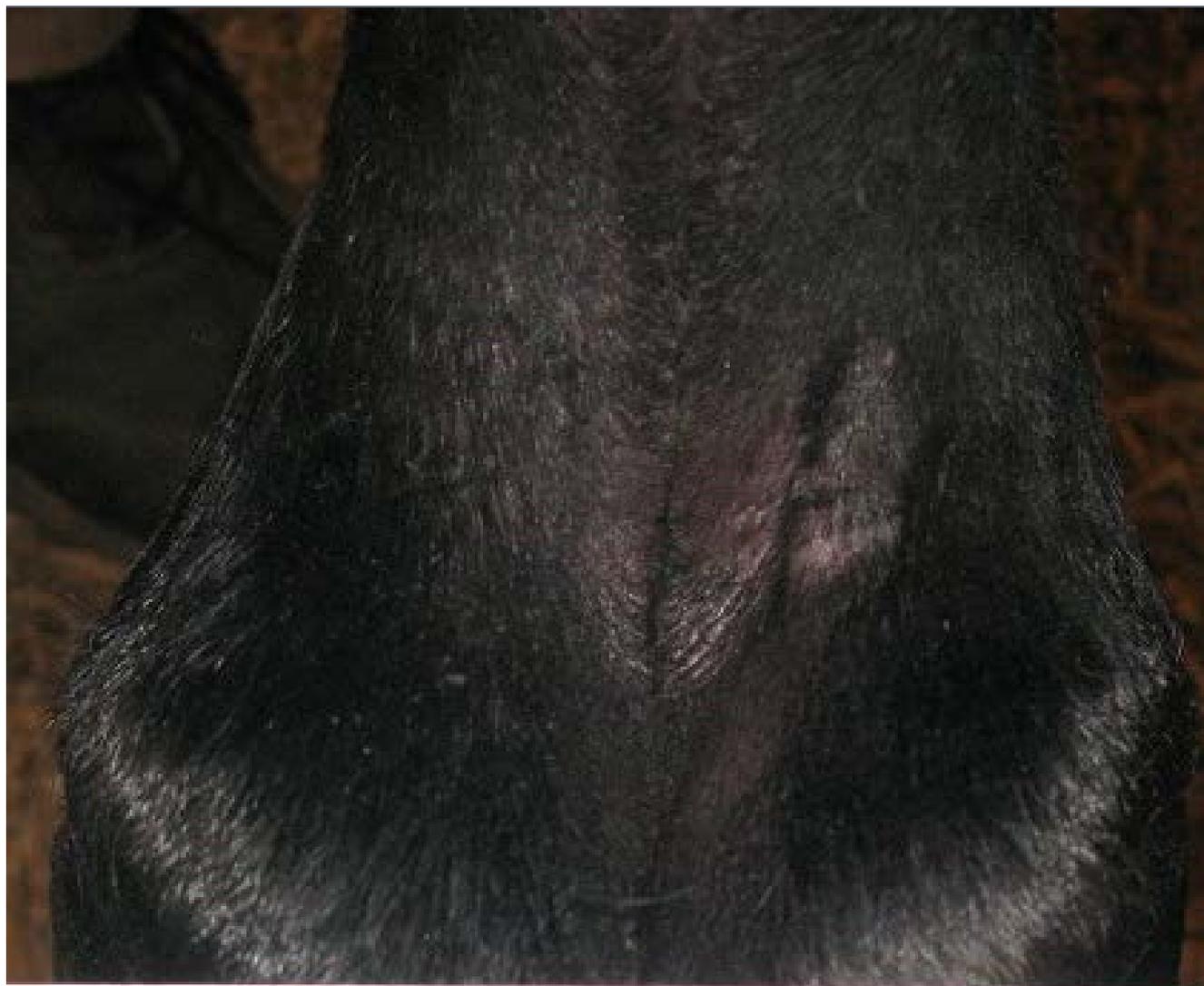


Scar Rule

This pastern had areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces as evidenced by the vertical granulomas right of the midline.

Non-Compliant

48



Scar Rule

Compliant

49

Normal Pastern

Determination made
by:

Visual examination

and

A thorough physical
examination,
including palpation
and assessment of
the skin



Scar Rule

This pastern had areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces as evidenced by multiple granulomas that radiated upward and outward.

Non-Compliant

50



Scar Rule

Compliant

51

Normal Pastern

Note the injury scar on the left heel bulb.

Determination made by:

Visual examination

and

A thorough physical examination, including palpation and assessment of the skin



Scar Rule

This pastern had areas of non-uniformly thickened epithelial tissue on the posterior surfaces as evidenced by the vertical granuloma at the midline and multiple granulomas right of the midline that radiated upward and outward.

Non-Compliant

52



Scar Rule

Compliant

53

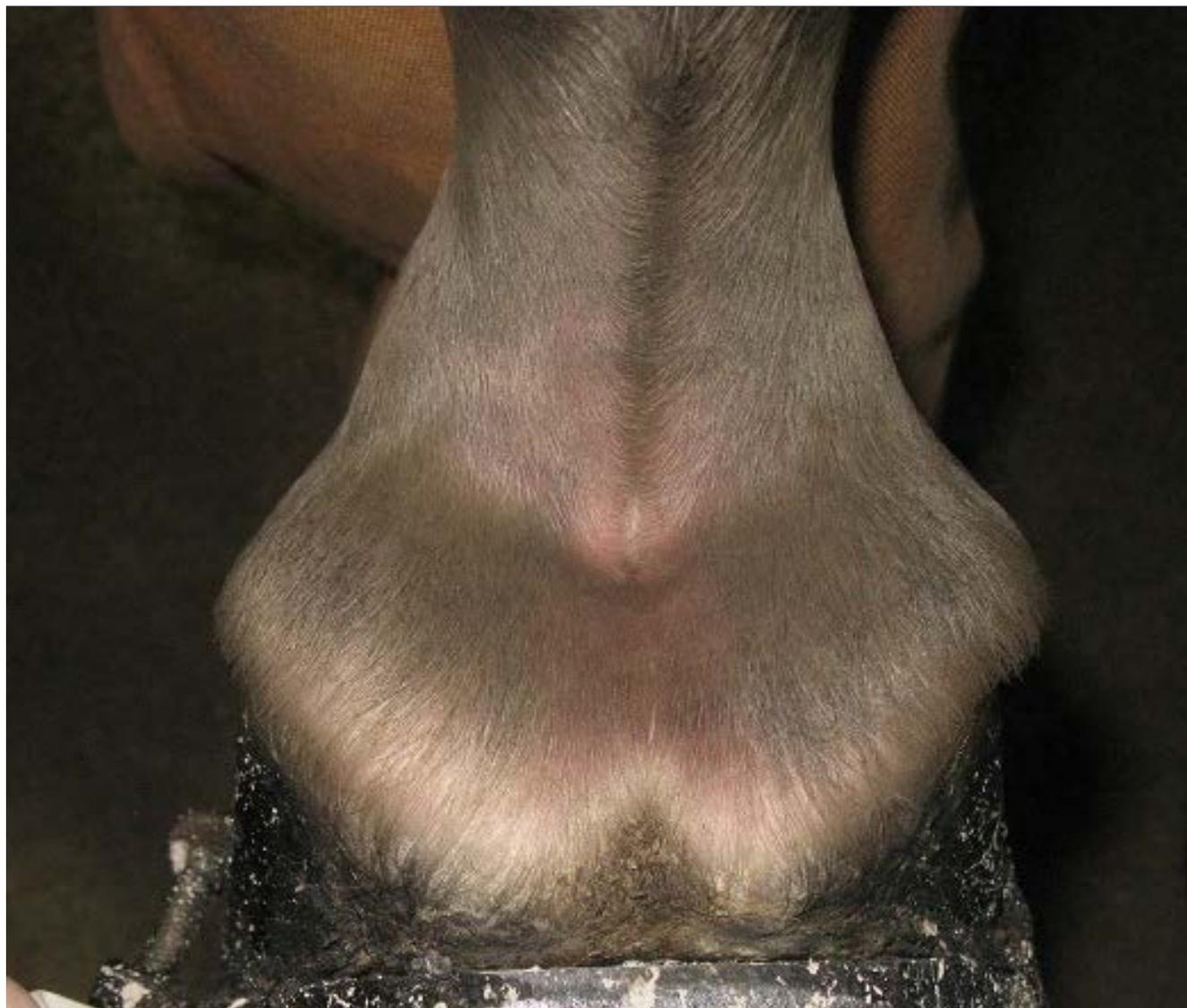
Normal Pastern

Determination made
by:

Visual examination

and

A thorough physical
examination,
including palpation
and assessment of
the skin



Inspection

- All horses must be inspected prior to a class, and all 1st place horses must also be inspected after the class. Horses dismissed from the show arena, either by a judge, steward or rider of the horse, must report directly to the inspection area for a follow-up inspection.



- The DQP should not examine the horse if it is presented in a manner that may cause the horse not to react properly to the DQP's examination (i.e., the horse is acting unruly; or paraphernalia such as whips, cigarette smoke, etc., are used to distract the horse).

Inspection

- Instruct the custodian to control the horse by holding the reins 18 inches from the bit shank.
- Direct the custodian to walk and turn the horse to determine if the horse moves in a free and easy manner.



Inspection

- When palpating, use the flat part of your thumb.
- Digitally palpate the front legs from knee to hoof with particular emphasis on the fetlock and pastern areas.
- Be sure to palpate all of the pastern area, including the pocket of the sulcus, heel bulbs and coronary band.
- The rear legs may be palpated under any circumstances, but they must be palpated if there are lesions present or if the horse is demonstrating unusual movements.

Inspection

- The DQP may also carry out additional inspection procedures if he/she deems them necessary to determine if a horse is sore.



- The DQPs are to inspect horses no more than three classes prior to showing – except when less than 150 horses are present, in which case they are to inspect no more than two classes before showing.

Warm-up area

- Inspected horses shall be held in a designated area (warm-up area) that is **under the observation** of the DQP or APHIS representative.
- The horse shall not be permitted to leave the designated area before showing.
- Only the horse, rider, trainer, groom, DQP and APHIS representatives are allowed in the designated area.

Warm-up area

- There should be no more than three people per horse in the warm-up area – excluding DQPs and APHIS representatives. For example, if 10 horses are in the warm-up area, there should be no more than 30 people (exhibitors, owners, etc.) present.



Violations

- The DQP must inform the horse's custodian of any alleged violations.
- The DQP shall obtain the following information for horses that he/she excuses for any reason:
 1. Name and address of show manager, horse owner, trainer and exhibitor
 2. Exhibitor's number and class number
 3. Date and time
 4. Description of the violation
 5. Horse's name, age, sex, color and markings
 6. Name of the show manager or management representative notified by the DQP of the violation

Summary

Please remember to be:

- Courteous
- Respectful
- Professional

Questions?

USDA-APHIS-Animal Care
Horse Protection Program
4700 River Road, Unit 84
Riverdale, MD 20737
Phone: 301-851-3751

Email: hp@aphis.usda.gov

Website: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/hp/