

Close collaboration between owner and veterinarian is beneficial for lesion identification and other observations suitable for therapeutic trimming, and routine-guided prophylactic (normal) trimming. Prophylactic practice in caring for the hooves is regular trimming, which restores the natural shape of the hoof and keeps the bearing surfaces correctly proportioned. Trimming schedules can depend on a variety of factors. Eg hardness of walking surface, & seasonal conditions. Nutrition plays a key role in hoof health and maintaining proper growth rate, eg zinc & biotin. A well-maintained routine of cleaning and trimming animals' feet will lead to a far lower incidence of discomfort and lameness in the cows and does.

Proper Hoof Trimming Focuses on Four Things:

1. Returning the hoof to the correct length
2. Achieving weight distribution between the inside and outside claws on each foot
3. Correcting any claw lesions
4. Discovering and addressing other foot infections, issues or injuries

CLIENT EDUCATION; Ruminants that have excessive hoof growth are very susceptible to laminitis, joint/tendon problems, and arthritis. If kept in damp, muddy environments and do not have their feet trimmed regularly they are very prone to foot problems, such as footrot and footscald.