THE FIVE STEPS FOR FUNCTIONAL HOOF TRIMMING

By E. TOUSSAINT RAVEN (Hoof trimming manual)
Updates according to Dr. Bystron and Dr. Mülling’s research.

General trimming steps for REAR LEGS

1. Cut the inner claw, making it the correct length: 8 cm distance between the hairline (where the horn starts) and the tip of the toe; make this measurement on the top of the claw (1A). Trim the sole FLAT (1B). Leave a maximum heel depth (1C) and a minimum of ½ cm (1D) at the tip of the toe.

![Diagram of hoof trimming steps](image)

2. Cut the outer claw, making it the same length and the same heel depth as the inner claw. Make sure this is also trimmed FLAT.

3. Dish-out a slight hollow in the soles (the combined dish should be enough to balance a chicken egg, but should not produce a thin sole), more in the outer claw than the inner claw. This is to find any ulcers and to make sure that the manure cleans away through the space between claws. Stay away from the toes!

4. Use this step only if there is a problem: lower the heel depth of diseased claw by trimming the sole and the wall lower than the healthy claw. This will cause the weight to shift to the healthier claw. Never dig holes in the sole. As a rule, leave ⅓ of the sole untouched in this step (measured from the toe). A glue-on block is a great aid if the difference in heel depth between the healthy claw and the diseased claw is not sufficient for healing.

![Diagram of hoof trimming steps](image)

5. Take care of the various hoof diseases by removing all loose or detached horn in the heel area and providing an effective treatment for infectious hoof diseases.

To trim the FRONT FEET, start with the outer claw and repeat step 1 to 5.

Disclaimer: This is a general overview of trimming a dairy cow. There are exceptions and differences in gaits which should be taken in consideration. Intracare is not responsible for any trimming results due to misinterpretation of the above steps.

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