

23rd ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL HOOF-CARE SUMMIT



98.7%
OF PAST ATTENDEES
RECOMMEND
THE SUMMIT!

INTERNATIONAL HOOF-CARE
Summit

"This is the most intensive hoof-care learning opportunity that I've ever seen, and you leave everyone else in the dust."

– Walter Varcoe,
Port Jervis, N.Y.

Cincinnati Metro
February 3-6, 2026



Non-Stop Learning to Refine Your Skills, Build Your Business

Dozens of field-tested footcare ideas gleaned from successful farriers, equine veterinarians and hoof researchers from around the world ... valuable tips to improve your work, slash costs, improve efficiency and build profits ... the world's largest hoof-care Trade Show ... 67 hours of exceptional and unbiased learning at the 23rd annual International Hoof-Care Summit from the editors of the *American Farriers Journal*.

Register Today at IHCS2026.com!

February 3-6, 2026 | Northern Kentucky Convention Center, Covington, KY

The Best Hoof-Care Tips, Ideas & Techniques from Footcare Experts in America's Heartland

The *American Farriers Journal* team and I are thrilled to bring the International Hoof-Care Summit back to the Cincinnati Metro Area! As we begin our third decade, we are committed to helping you expand your hoof-care education through a focused peer-to-peer program covering the most important topics for today's equine footcare professionals.

The Summit offers nearly 70 hours of expert insights into your most critical challenges from outstanding farriers, equine veterinarians and hoof researchers. Get a first look at 2026's newest and best products at the world's largest equine hoof-care Trade Show. You'll profit from unlimited "face-to-face" hallway time as you network with the giants of the footcare profession. Come see for yourself why attendees report taking home an average of \$4,576 in ready-to-use ideas from over 50 cutting-edge, money-making sessions!



Jeff Cota

See you in the Cincinnati Metro Area!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

8 a.m.

American Farrier's Association Certification Exams

The American Farrier's Association administers written exams for Certified Race Plater, Certified Farrier, Certified Tradesman Farrier and Certified Journeyman Farrier.

Bonus Heel Pain Workshop

Navicular disease, navicular syndrome, caudal heel syndrome, palmar foot pain — regardless of the label, the chronic, shifting distal limb lameness is common to many breeds and disciplines. International Equine Veterinarian Hall of Famer **Dr. Renate Weller** leads a highly informative, interactive panel discussion on real-world heel pain cases that illustrate the complexities of characterization, diagnosis and treatment.

Admission is \$199. Attendance is limited.

NEW!



Renate Weller

Special Equine Limb Dissection Wet Lab

Understanding anatomy is the foundation of farriery. International Horseshoeing Hall of Famer **Mitch Taylor** of Kentucky Horseshoeing School presents a special, extended equine limb dissection featuring an interactive discussion of vital structures that improves your understanding of quality hoof care.

Admission is \$99. Attendance is limited.



Special Hands-On Sessions

Take part in 3 innovative Hands-On Product Sessions from the Summit's Gold Educational Partners — EasyCare, Glue-U Adhesives and Zoetis.

1 p.m. Official Summit Kickoff

American Farriers Journal editors outline proven steps to help you get the highest rate of return from your Summit attendance. Plus, a motivational presentation to set the tone for 4 days of learning.

Vet-Farrier Relations: Drawing the Line Between Science & Opinion

When a veterinarian and farrier disagree on a therapeutic path, how should the differences be resolved? When frustrations mount, is it appropriate for either side to suggest the removal of the other?

International Horseshoeing Hall of Famer **Patrick Reilly** of Rowan University examines how and why relationships break down, why science must prevail and how respectful collaboration is in the best interests of the horse.

You'll Learn: Why scientific evidence and direct communication turns down the heat in vet-farrier relationships.



Patrick Reilly

"It's priceless to come here and listen to some of the older guys who have been in the business 20-30 years and pick their brains. You never know who you're going to meet."

— Justin Huth, Vandergrift, Pa.



How Race Plates Affect the Suspensory Apparatus

Horseshoes play a significant role in protecting the hooves of racehorses while providing stability, enhanced traction and minimizing weight. But how do they affect the suspensory apparatus?



Mitch Taylor

International Horseshoeing Hall of Famer **Mitch Taylor** of Kentucky Horseshoeing School shares his latest research on the effects of different race plate styles on hoof orientation and how they affect the tension of the ligamentous structures of the suspensory apparatus.

You'll Learn: How race plate selection plays a role in both performance and injury prevention.

Preventative & Therapeutic Effects of the Split-Shoe Approach on Common Hoof Capsule Disorders, Presented by Bartek

The hoof is a highly flexible and adaptable structure, not rigid. While barefoot, hoof movement undergoes a 3-dimensional self-reversing deformation. This is the "hoof mechanism" that functions best with a healthy hoof and, in turn, improves hoof health.

Dr. Bart Halsberghe of Belgium-based Global Equine Health Consulting explores the benefits of the split-shoe approach on common hoof problems.

You'll Learn: How the application provides the protection of a horseshoe while offering the benefits afforded when barefoot.

BARTEK



Bart Halsberghe

9 How-To Product Knowledge Clinics

Select 3 of these 20-minute practical "how-to" sessions to attend, delivered by the International Hoof-Care Summit's Gold Level Educational Partners — EasyCare, Glue-U Adhesives and Zoetis. (Each session is held 3 times during this time block.)

VIP Hands-On Dissection Wet Lab

The external appearance of the equine hoof offers farriers and veterinarians indications of what is transpiring with the internal structures. In this VIP Hands-On Dissection Wet Lab, **Paige Poss** of Tucson, Ariz., leads a lively and informative discussion in which attendees inspect cadaver limbs before, during and after dissection. **Admission is \$199. Attendance is limited.**



Informative Hoof-Care Roundtables

Select from the following intimate and candid Roundtable sessions, which are repeated immediately after the first session:

- Rehabilitation for Hoof & Limb Injuries
- Managing Long Toe-Underrun Heel Cases
- How to Tell Clients What They Don't Want to Hear
- Leverage Considerations
- Breakover: What is it? How Moving it Affects the Horse
- Surface Materials & How They Affect Performance Horse Hoof Care
- Tackling Hoof Wall Separations
- For New Farriers (Apprentice To Third Year) Only



Reserve Your Room at the Cincinnati Marriott at RiverCenter Hotel

The Cincinnati Marriott at RiverCenter at 10 W RiverCenter Blvd., Covington, Ky., is the host hotel of the 23rd annual International Hoof-Care Summit.

An enclosed skywalk connects this hotel to the Northern Kentucky Convention Center where all the general sessions, classrooms, roundtables and the Trade Show will occur.

Reserve your room at the special room rate of \$159 per night by calling (859) 261-2900. Or book online by visiting IHCS2026.com.

Hotel room block cut-off is Jan. 10, 2026, or until allocated rooms are sold out. Be sure to mention "Lessiter Publications: International Hoof-Care Summit" to receive the discounted nightly rate reserved for Summit attendees.



I've been shoeing for over 25 years, and the Summit is the best farrier gathering I've ever attended."

— Scott Anweiler,
Minerva, Ohio

Sponsored by

GOLD PARTNERS



EASYCARE
PROTECTIVE HOOFWEAR

glue-u
adhesives

zoetis

AMERICAN

FARRIERS JOURNAL

SILVER SPONSORS



SMART EQUINE

BRONZE SPONSORS



MFC

HOOF MD
Adhesive Systems for Equine & Bovine Hoof Care

For sponsorship opportunities,
contact Michael Ellis at
mellis@lessitermedia.com

Register today at 866-839-8455 or 262-432-0388



Figure 12

An equine lumbar spine and sacrum. a) first lumbar vertebra, b) sixth lumbar vertebra, c) sacrum, d) articulation surface of the sacrum to the ilium.

to transfer the motion of the hind limbs to the spine. Likely because of the high pressure and load affecting the sacroiliac joints, it's frequently affected by restrictions in mobility and degenerative disorders, such as desmitis of the ligaments, inflammation or arthrosis (Haussler 2004; Barstow et al. 2015; Goff et al. 2008).

In addition, the lumbar spine can be affected by vertebral disc degeneration and disc prolapses or arthrosis between the facet joints, which can lead to stenosis of the intervertebral foramina. Through these holes, the lumbar spine and the sacrum release the sensory and motor nerves of the plexus lumbosacralis. The spinal cord ends at the third lumbar vertebra, but spinal nerves run further caudally, bundled as the so-called "cauda equina."

**Relief posture
can overload the
fetlock's suspensory
apparatus and
abnormal toe wear ...**

es painful conditions in stance and walk. Intermittent lameness in the hind limbs of different and varying degrees without diagnosis of disorders at the distal limb is the consequence.

In addition, horses with pain in the sacroiliac joint or irritation of the spinal nerves show restrictions in the gait pattern with short, asymmetric strides, toe dragging or even ataxic gait. Abnormal toe wear is the consequence.

Current research also found a correlation between pathologies at the sacroiliac joints and disorders of the suspensory ligament of the hind limbs (Skivington et al. 2020).

The author of this article cannot say whether the diseases of the suspensory ligament occur because of overload due to the relief posture, with hind limbs positioned under the body

These spinal nerves are responsible for innervating the muscles of the hind limbs and transferring sensation. Arthrosis, restrictions in motion or tension in surrounding muscles can irritate the nerves. Mainly affected is the nervus ischiadicus, which is released from the last lumbar and first sacral segments and runs close to the sacroiliac joint under the gluteal muscles at the ligamentum sacrotuberale caudal to the hip joints further distally (Figure 14).

Irritation of the nervus ischiadicus caus-

(B) Twin™ Shoes
Barefoot Benefits, Steel Protection



BARTEK INFO

The natural evolution in hoof care:

- Allows for natural hoof flexibility and improved biomechanics
- Helps improve hoof growth and blood flow
- Provides both preventive and therapeutic benefits
- Applied similar to traditional one-piece shoes
- Great for transitioning to and from barefoot

BARTEK

Bartek Equine LLC

Burlington, WI USA | www.BartekEquine.com | +1-262-203-5111

SureTrax

DEEP HOOF CLEANSER LEADING TO HEALTHY FEET

Sure Trax is a clinically tested, deep-penetrating hoof cleanser designed to support farriers in combating stubborn infections. Its powerful formula effectively penetrates biofilms—protective environments where bacteria and fungi thrive—ensuring thorough cleansing even in challenging conditions. Engineered to perform across a wide pH range, whether acidic or alkaline, Sure Trax delivers a three-strike approach to hoof health:

1. Penetration – Breaking through biofilms to reach deep-seated infections.
2. Oxidation – Neutralizing harmful bacteria, fungi, and spores.
3. Prevention – Inhibiting biofilm reformation post-treatment.

With its reliable, targeted action, Sure Trax helps restore and maintain optimal hoof health, making it an essential tool for Hoofcare professionals dedicated to equine well-being.

Easy To Use,
Long Lasting,
and Economical

**VIEW OUR
INSTRUCTIONAL
VIDEO HERE:**



AVAILABLE FROM FARRIER SUPPLY DEALERS



PHONE: 860-379-8553