

The Foul Threat of Thrush

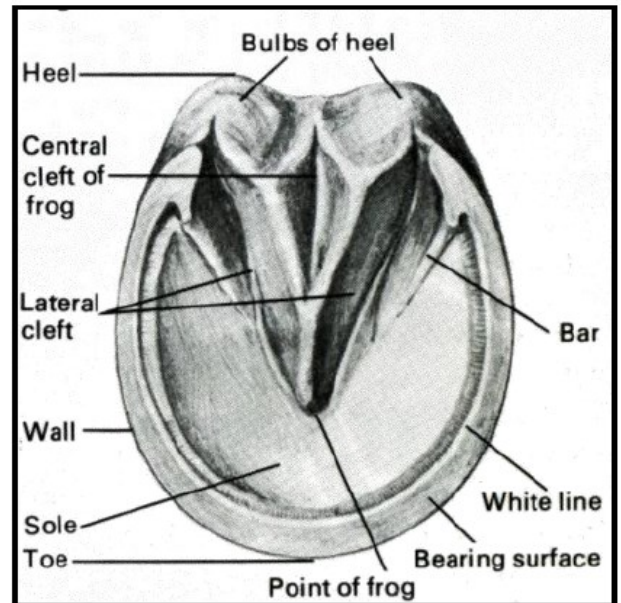
Smell it once and it will leave a lasting impression on your olfactory system. Thrush is a black stinky gooey mess, just looking for an anaerobic area in which to thrive. This fungal infection eats away at the tissues of the frog and if left untreated will advance deeper into the sensitive areas of the hoof and cause lameness.

Prevention:

- Daily hoof cleaning, paying close attention to the central cleft of the frog and the bars
- Dry, clean environment
- Regular farrier care guards against overgrown or contracted hooves

Treatment:

- Daily cleaning of stalls—providing clean dry bedding
- Turn out in a clean field—free from mud and manure
- If caught early, exposing the affected area to oxygen will kill the fungus- pick out the hooves twice daily
- If there are flaps of compromised frog—consult your farrier to carefully pare them away so the fungus has nowhere to hide
- Soak cotton in a commercial preparation or cleaning solution recommended by your veterinarian and swab into the cracks and crevices of the hoof and frog by pushing it into the areas with a hoof pick. Use enough pressure to reach the areas but do not leave the cotton packed in, as excessive pressure can kill sensitive frog tissue
- If bleeding is present when cleaning out the hoof—call your veterinarian.



Good stable management practices and a clean environment are the best defense measures against thrush.

Learn more about equine anatomy and stable management in our 12 week courses
[Equine Functional Anatomy](#) and [Management of the Equine Environment](#)!