Corns by Esco Buff, PhD, APF-I, CF

A Corn is solar tissue bruise in the seat of corn or at the angle formed by the hoof and bars. It is usually seen more commonly in front hooves then hind hooves.



There are three types of Corns. Dry Corns which are red colored and may have no significance. Moist Corns in which serum accumulates beneath the epidermis. Horses can be moderately lame. Suppurative (pus forming) which is infected and horses are usually more severely lame.



The etiology or cause of Corns can be created form shoe pressure from shoeing modality, shoeing short or if the shoe is left on too long. They can also be created due to substrate getting wedged between the shoe/casting and sole as well as from poor fitted hoof boots. Corns can also be created if the seat of corn is below hoof wall.



Short and tight shoeing or hoof overgrowth, can be a potential cause of corns.

Treatment for Corns will focus on identifying and removing the insult. Many corns will diminish when the insult is removed. In more severe lameness cases, reducing any pressure and concussion will help reduce the lameness and recovery time.

