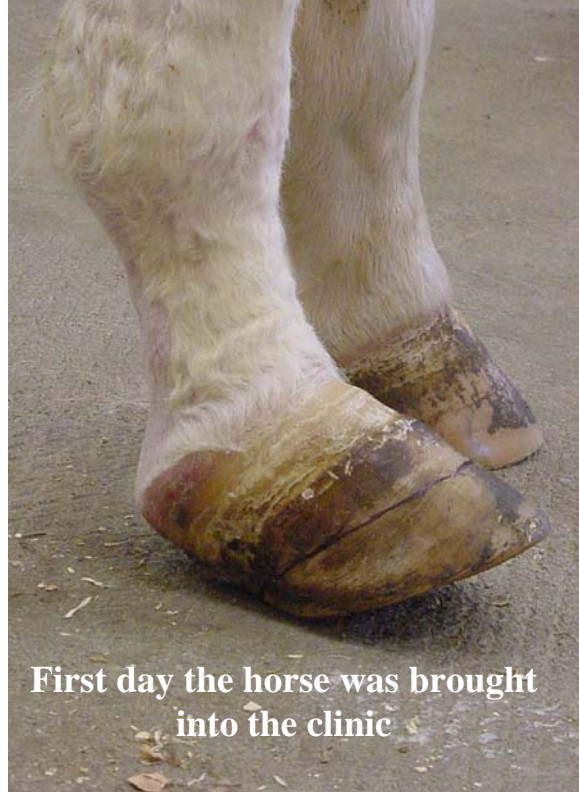


History: A two year old gelding presented with a right hind leg injury of 98 days duration. He had kicked through a metal door frame and lacerated the back of the pastern. The wound was healed but the deep digital flexor tendon was ruptured from the coffin bone. Hence the stance on the bulb of the heels with the toe pointed towards the abdomen as seen in the pictures.

Diagnostic tests: Ultrasound evaluation revealed a loss of fibers in the deep digital flexor tendon. Radiographs showed an overgrown hoof capsule and a negative palmer angle.



First day the horse was brought into the clinic



Leg set-up with the extended heel shoe and the bungee cord

Treatment: The hoof was properly trimmed to align the coffin bone in the hoof capsule. An extended heel shoe was applied to force the toe of the hoof to the ground and support the back of the leg. A bungee cord was applied to stimulate the normal deep digital flexor tendon. A product called “A-Cell” was injected into the deep digital flexor tendon. A-cell is a pig bladder derived product that when injected into the flexor tendon stimulated the horse’s own stem cells to come into damaged tendon. The stem cells then differentiate into the tendon thereby healing the torn tendon.

A week after A-cell injection the gelding was kicking and hooked the bungee cord. He pulled at the cord until the cord broke. This created the wound at the upper cannon bone area. The deep digital flexor tendon was healed enough to support the leg with an extended heel shoe, so the bungee was removed.



Upper cannon bone injury after bungee incident



5 months after initial visit, 3 months after bungee incident

Over the next few months, with controlled exercise, the deep digital tendon filled in completely and strengthened. The imbalanced hoof capsule was corrected with monthly trimming and shoeing. Ten and one half months later the gelding was sound with a healed deep digital flexor tendon and a normal hoof capsule.