

# Founder

Here are some steps to follow if your horse founders or has foundered in the past.

## Cool the feet down

- Stand the horse in a creek or river (my favorite) for as long as you can. Do this a few times a day.
- Hose your horses feet for as long as you can. Do this a few time a day.
- Use ice packs 30 mins at a time. Do this a few times a day.

## Use anti-inflammatory

- Two grams of Bute two times a day. Do this for as long as needed and as short as time as possible. Most horses only need it for about 7 days.

## Hoof boots and pads

- Have horse wear hoof boots at all times with an one hour air out time on very soft ground every day.
- Use pads that are made out of foam. The foam shapes to the bottom of the hoof helping to support the horse. Most pads need to be changed about once a week. Hint: If you save two used pads, you can put them both in the boots to help with \$.
- Before putting on boots, sprinkle “Gold Bond” medicated powder in the boots to help with moisture.
- Use boots for turn out until the horse is as comfortable without the boots as with them on. This could take months. Always wear boots and pads for riding.
- To prevent your horse from getting sores from wearing the boots so much, put a single layer of loose duct tape around the horses cornet band.



## Soaking feet for abcesses

- Most foundered horses will get abcesses. It is very normal and may happen multiple times before the horse grows out a new hoof. Don't be discouraged if your foundered horse is moving great one night, then wakes up the next morning not able to put weight on one of its feet.
- See our section on how to treat abcesses.

## Exercise

- This is the most important part!!!!!!! With boots and pads on, walk your horse as far as it will go, stop and rest, then, go back. Some horses this will be 100 feet. Others it will be one mile. Every day walk the horse farther than the day before.
- Put horse in a dry lot with a horse that will make it move. Use a horse that will not kick, but one that will bite is fine by me. That horse will give the foundered horse tons of exercise.

- Build Paddock Of Paradise. (easiest and best for horse) Yes - you may need to still do some hand walking. See Paddock Of Paradise.

## Diet

- Also, very important!!!!!! Soaked grass hay is the best. See handout on Soaking Hay. Most foundered horses are just like diabetic people they have a very hard time with the carbs in their food. The carbs are called NSC levels = Sugars and starches. Every time a foundered horse eats carbs the carbs spike the insulin levels and the insulin attacks the hoof weakening the hoof wall and causing inflammation.
- Most foundered horses are over weight and need to be placed on a diet. For an average 1000 pound horse I recommend 11-15 pounds of dry grass hay per day. Yes- your horse will be hungry--it is ok!!!!
- Use a slow feeder. See handout on Slow Feeder.
- No carrots
- No apples
- No TREATS!!!!!!



## Remission

- Supportive nutritional supplement for horses that have foundered or are susceptible to the risk of founder (Laminitis), Remission is a scientifically engineered blend of beneficial natural ingredients containing probiotics and functional carbohydrates. Contains Chromium, Magnesium,
- I have had great success with this product. Give remission to the horse according to directions. I like to add it to soaked, drained and rinsed beet pulp. Most horses will eat it. If they will not, you may need to put it into a syringe and squirt it in the horses mouth like a dewormer.



## Trimming

- Most foundered horse should only go 3 weeks in between trims at the most. Keep the horse on a very strict schedule.



Before



After