

## First Aide for Laminitis!

For those of you who are familiar with the use of the Styrofoam Support Blocks, you know what I'm talking about when I say that they are one of the least expensive, safest and most effective tools for treating many acute equine lameness problems. The use of Styrofoam blocks has become standard first aide for many veterinary Universities, equine hospitals and professional farriers across the country and abroad. Now that we have completed a detailed **Styrofoam Support Block Instruction Video**, these support blocks can even be applied by horse owners and care takers if necessary, until the hoof care professionals have a chance to tend to the horse. This is very helpful since the sooner the Styrofoam is applied, the better chance you have of returning the horse to its pre-disease condition. This generally means a shorter recovery period as well.

## THE NEWLY DESIGNED NBS

We would first like to extend our thanks to everyone who has been patiently anticipating the release of the new Natural Balance™ Shoe sizes and design. We think that you will find the wait to be well worth it. The new sizes are going to add the ability to achieve a better fit for a wider range of horses. The few design modifications will help make this shoe more application friendly for a more diverse range of uses. The new NBS should also get about 20% more wear with the combination of design and materials. All-in-all, the Natural Balance™ Shoe has become a better tool for everyday hoof care use.

*Continued on page 2*



The EDSS First Alert kit is available in 4 sizes: small, medium, large and X-large. The kits will sell for about \$25 and include the following items:

- 4 pre-cut Styrofoam Support Blocks -
- A Styrofoam Instruction Video & Booklet -
- A Roll of Duct Tape -

*\*Each item is also sold on an individual basis.*

**“Early application of the blocks, along with the expertise of the farrier and vet will yield the best results and increase the chances of saving the horse’s life!”**

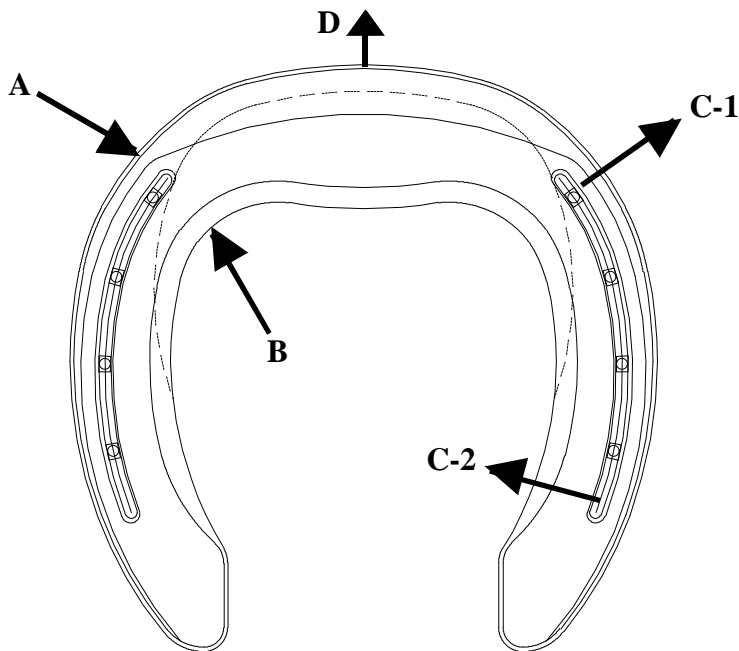
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THE NEW NBS CONTINUED

Over the last few years we have become aware of just a few modification that would be beneficial to the NBS. Based on our own experience and the comments and suggestions of farriers across the county, we made the following modifications to the new sizes of Natural Balance™ shoes:

- A - Toe quarters have been brought in about 1.5mm.
- B - Rounded the inner toe quarter area (which added a little more thickness to the toe.)
- C - Evened out the nail groove. (1 = brought front nail out. 2 = brought rear nail in.)
- D - Toe has been extended about 1.5mm.



As you can see, not too much has changed. The main adjustment that you as the users will have to make is knowing what size number equates to the old sizing method of small, medium and large. Basically, it breaks down like this: the small is exactly the same as the #00, the medium is the same as the #1 and the large is the same as the #3. The remaining sizes fill in the gaps at 1/4" increments. I have listed a "size according to width" table below. The only size that is not yet available is the #4. Hopefully it will be ready by the end of August or the first part of September. Thanks again for your patients and we hope you enjoy the new Natural Balance™ Shoe.

New Sizes and Widths:

#00 - 4.50"	#2 - 5.25"
#0 - 4.75"	#3 - 5.50"
#1 - 5.00"	#4 - 5.75"



NATURAL BALANCE™  
 FEATURED IN  
**TRAIL BLAZER MAGAZINE**

Trail Blazer Magazine is an endurance rider publication that is widely known and very well respected. After having a short article published a few years ago and then again being mentioned last year, Natural Balance™ had become a topic of interest to TB readers. When the editor offered us the chance to write a 6-part article (a years worth), we were pretty excited. We constantly have new and updated information and situations like this give us the chance to get it out to the equine community. Because this is primarily a lay journal, we have worked hard to make these articles nontechnical enough for anyone to understand, yet full of enough good information to be a useful tool.

Below is list of article topics and issue in which they are published:

- ◇ Looking at Wild Horses for Answers - *January/February '99*
- ◇ What Happens Inside the Hoof? - *March/April '99*
- ◇ Hoof Deformity - *May/June '99*
- ◇ Foal Management and Development - *July/August '99*
- ◇ Natural Balance Trimming - *September/October '99*
- ◇ Natural Balance Shoeing - *November/December '99*

If you would like to get copies of these issues for your friends, clients or yourself, you can call or write to:

**Trail Blazer Offices**  
**4284 N. Gelding Drive**  
**Prescott Valley, AZ 86314**  
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**E-mail: [tblazer@northlink.com](mailto:tblazer@northlink.com)**  
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**EDSS  
Styrofoam  
Support  
Block  
Instruction  
Video**

**NEW STYROFOAM VIDEO**

In 1996 when we made the EDSS Instruction Video, there was about 15 minutes of instruction for the Styrofoam application. Over the past few years with its increased use by farriers, vets and university clinics, some of the techniques and maintenance tips have been more finely tuned. We have taken the most up-to-date application information, maintenance suggestions and troubleshooting tips, and combined them into this 40 minute video tape.

For many farriers and vets this video will not only update your own tool box of knowledge, but it will

offer your clients enough first aide instruction to get the Styrofoam on their horse until you have a chance to get there. With the Styrofoam on the feet, whether it's acute laminitis or just a stone bruise, at least the horse can be made comfortable until a thorough diagnosis can be made. In most cases the Styrofoam treatment is continued for a few days to several weeks. If this becomes what is needed to get the horse stable, at least the horse's owner will be able to properly maintain the Styrofoam so that you do not have to make a special trip to see the horse 3 times a week. Hopefully the information in this video will save time and money for everyone, and still offer the best treatment for helping return the horse to a pre-disease condition.

The Styrofoam instruction video is now available by itself or in the First Alert Kit. Because you will probably not always have a VCR handy, the video also comes with a field booklet that highlights the main points of the video. The video is currently \$15 plus shipping and handling, and can be ordered direct from EDSS, Inc. (*Suppliers are also welcome!*)



**LOOK AHEAD TO 2000**

Before we look ahead to the rest of this year and next year, I would first like to apologize for the lengthy period of time that has pasted since our last newsletter. The first half of '99 has been so busy with all the article, the new video and shoes, not to mention the 2 new baby Ovnicek girls in June & July (1 Cody's & 1 Chad's), that time has just zoomed by. I appreciate all you patients and promise to have at least 2 more newsletters before the end of the year. The next one is already in the works with a brand new treatment suggestion for Ring Bone that Gene is working on. Thanks for hanging in there.

Many of you that have grown fond of the Natural Balance™ shoe design will be excited to know that by the year 2000 you will be able to have another NBS option. That's right, a steel Natural Balance™ shoe is currently in the works and will hopefully be available by the end of the this year. We do not yet have an availability date or a cost estimate. All we can say right now is that soon you will be able to get the useful design of the NBS at a competitive steel price.

We would also like to let everyone know that we will have some new videos available next year. Some of these could include a clinic lecture video, a trimming video and a shoeing video. We'll let you know when we have more information.

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## NATURAL HOOF PRINTS

### CLINIC NEWS & DATES

In April of this year Mission Farrier School sponsored a special 4 day session that covered EDSS and various lameness problems. Although Gene Ovnicek was the featured clinician, there were farriers and vets from all over the western U.S. that attended and contributed their own experiences and expertise to the pot of knowledge. They treated around 30 horses in the 4 day event and we have received calls and e-mails from over half of the attendees commenting on how much they learned and how much they enjoyed the time spent with their peers. Thanks for attending.

A similar event is taking place now in Colorado. From July 31 to August 3, Dr. Barb Page, Dr. Robert Bowker and Gene Ovnicek will be conducting the "Natural Hoof Clinic". It will consist of various topics ranging from "The Wild Horse Digit" to "Dissection's of Diseased and Normal Feet" to "Radiology and Anatomy Comparisons of Wild and Domestic Feet". The first two days will consist of lectures from the 3 researchers on some of the latest findings in the equine hoof care community. The remaining days will be spent treating various lameness cases, much like what was

done at the Mission Farrier School Special Session. There are farriers and vets coming from all over the country and a few from Europe. It will be exciting to see all the new information that is likely to be covered at this event.

Based on the success and overwhelming response by the attendees of these 2 events, we are anticipating the scheduling of several more on an annual or semiannual basis. If you would be interested in attending one of these advanced clinics, please write to us and let us know so that we can make sure you are notified when these events arise.

The following is a list of clinics and workshops that Gene has on his schedule at this time:

- **Sept. 10-12:** Monroe, WA; Contact Dr. Dana Bridges at (360) 805-9064 or us for a brochure.
- **Oct. 7-8:** Colorado State University; Contact CSU Vet Teaching Hospital at (970) 221-4535 for more info.
- **2nd Half of October** Gene will be doing several TFP sponsored clinics in England.
- **Early November** there is a tentatively schedule clinic in Phoenix, AZ; Call us in Sept. for more info.
- **Mid November** Gene will be doing several Classic Horse-shoes sponsored clinics in Australia.