

## Frog Disease Help: Useful Tools



Fig. 38

All photos courtesy Candace Platz DVM and Heike Bean

The following illustrated pages are a continuation of “Treatment of Disease in the Equine Frog” article on pages 12-15 of this issue.

Fig. 38. Some useful tools for examining and trimming the frogs, including hoof knives, dental probes, scaling tools, awls, small Phillips head screwdrivers, and the tiniest bone cures.

Figs. 39a and 39b: Barbara from Maryland came up with another great tool and kindly gave her permission to use her illustrations.—Candace Platz DVM and Heike Bean

Helpful tool for trimming overhanging frog and scraping thrush from collateral grooves

made by breaking in the bend of a hoof knife, about here

here are left and right-handed versions of the resultant tool:

filed ends  
(shape fits well into deep collateral groove)

After breaking in the bend of a hoof knife (e.g., in a vise -- next photo), file off jagged parts from the break, to make a blunt end; this insures you will not cut into tissue beyond where you intended.

Fig. 39a

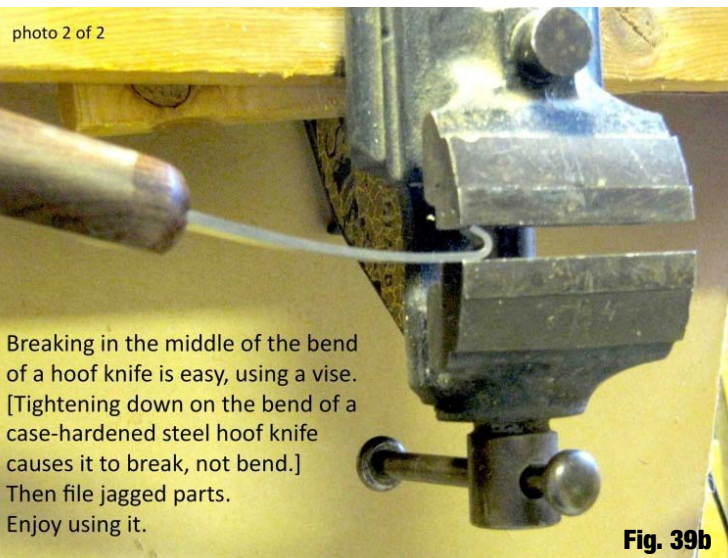


photo 2 of 2

Breaking in the middle of the bend of a hoof knife is easy, using a vise. [Tightening down on the bend of a case-hardened steel hoof knife causes it to break, not bend.] Then file jagged parts. Enjoy using it.

Fig. 39b

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### Don't Miss It! SHP North American Continuing Education Seminar

**When:** Friday eve, Nov. 5 through Monday afternoon, Nov. 8, 2010.

**Where:** Dr. Steve Skinner's hoof clinic in Sherwood, Oregon

The Annual North American Continuing Education Seminar is for **everyone who's ever graduated from the SHP course**, as well as a mini “North-American” conference. It will feature the newest information from the World Conference in Gdansk, as well as guest speakers, time for discussing case files, shop talk and socializing.

Please RSVP ASAP to:  
[stasserhoofcare@aol.com](mailto:stasserhoofcare@aol.com)  
to reserve your spot.

# Frog Disease Help: Close Inspection of the Frog

The central sulcus in Fig. 44 looks healthy, except for this tiny black slit, which experience has taught us must be investigated.



Fig. 44

Careful exploration in Fig. 45 revealed extensive damage not apparent on the surface. Necrotic fluid was found inside the pocket.



Fig. 45

Continued inspection (Fig. 46) reveals even more damage. Note also the deep pocket on the other heel bulb. These pockets are usually started by harsh ground conditions. Once the bulb skin is cut, it cannot reattach, and the resulting defect becomes a haven for microbes.



Fig. 46

Fig. 47 shows another example of a seemingly minor problem.



Fig. 47

Fig. 48 depicts what was revealed during the investigation of the jagged heel bulb in Fig. 47.



Fig. 48

Fig. 49 shows yet another innocent looking central sulcus, with an almost invisible slit near the back.



Fig. 49

Oops!! Look how deeply this screwdriver penetrates this seemingly intact frog (Fig. 50). This defect provides a wonderful environment for anaerobic microbes.



Fig. 50

Figs. 51a and 51b show yet another and very dramatic example of occult frog disease, courtesy of Cheryl Henderson. But without probing and thorough investigation, this significant lesion could have been easily overlooked.



Fig. 51a

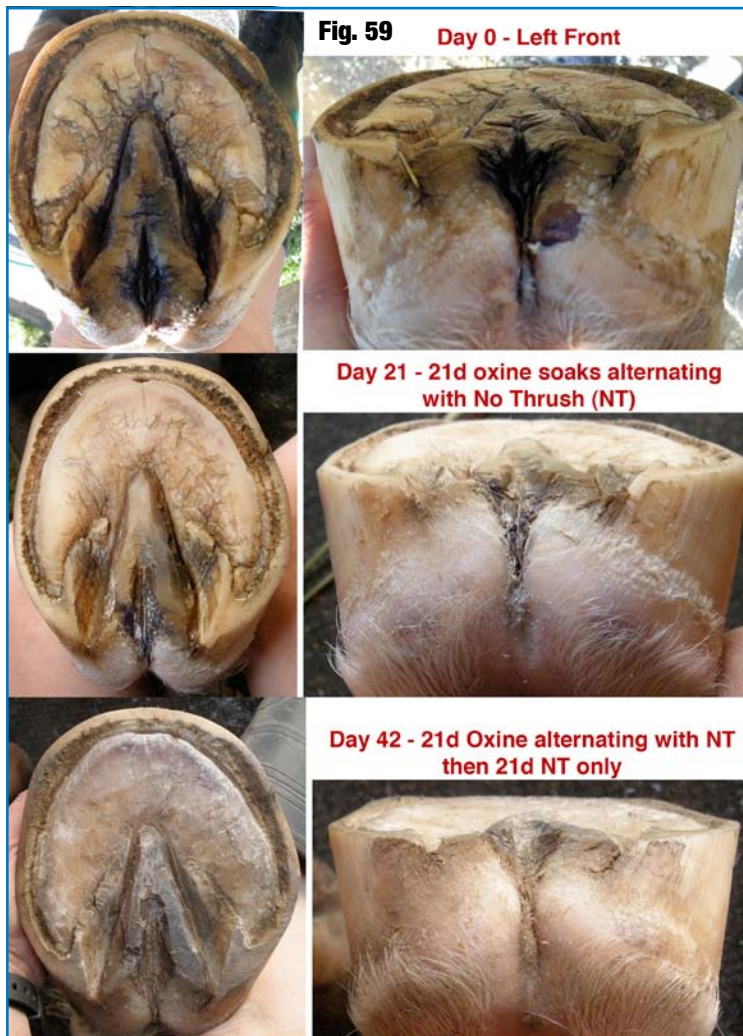


Fig. 51b

These examples illustrate the importance of a thorough examination of the frog and caudal hoof in order to detect, treat and prevent occult infection as early as possible to avoid subsequent horn loss and invasion of sensitive tissues.—Candace Platz DVM and Heike Bean

All photos courtesy Candace Platz DVM and Heike Bean

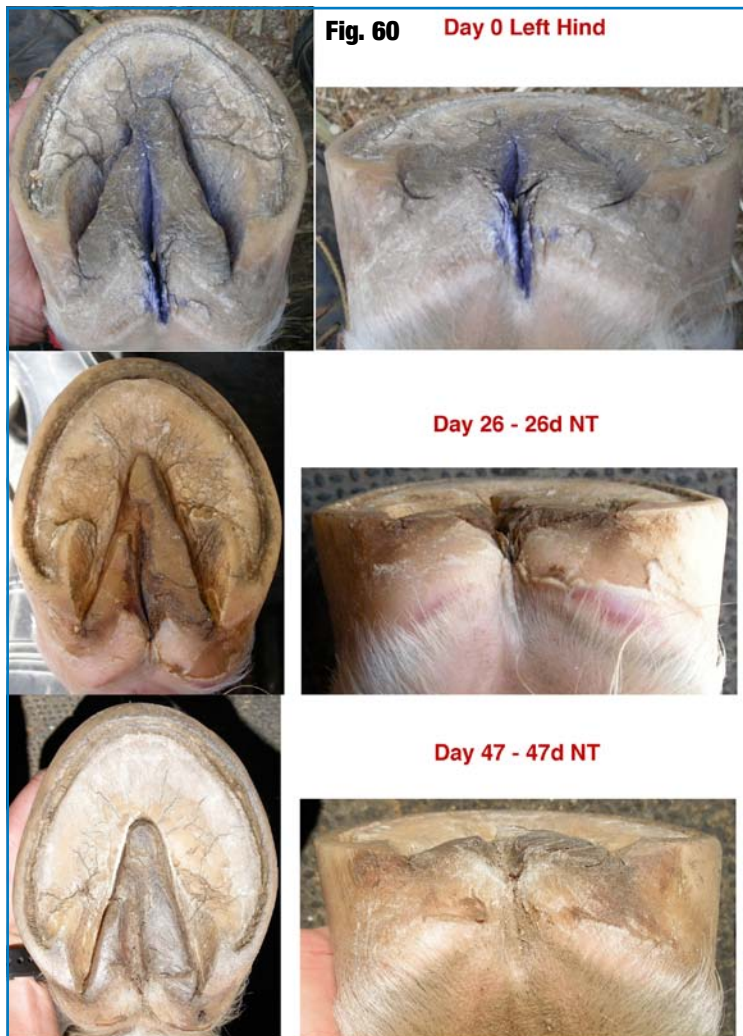
# Frog Disease Help: Successful Treatment



**Fig. 59** Day 0 - Left Front

Day 21 - 21d oxine soaks alternating with No Thrush (NT)

Day 42 - 21d Oxine alternating with NT then 21d NT only



**Fig. 60** Day 0 Left Hind

Day 26 - 26d NT

Day 47 - 47d NT

All photos courtesy Josephine Trott, PhD and Heike Bean

**Fig. 59:** Left front hoof of Horse B treated with alternating Oxine AH soaks and No Thrush for 21 days following 5 days of No Thrush.

**Fig. 60:** Left hind hoof of Horse B treated with No Thrush for 26 days.

Josephine Trott, PhD, Assistant Project Scientist, Department of Animal Science at the University of California, Davis, has been experimenting with and documenting her treatment procedure which included several different agents, amongst others, No Thrush and Oxine AH.

After a frustrating, expensive and time consuming battle using nearly every product imaginable, she tried No Thrush. "I started an experiment on eight hooves, comparing daily dusting with No Thrush to daily soaking in Oxine AH or a combination of the two. Three weeks later, the No Thrush treated frogs were not sensitive anymore, the heel bulbs were much firmer, the depth of the central sulcus was 50% shallower and the frog tissue was overall much firmer with no significant areas of surface thrush/cheesy frog. By comparison, the two Oxine AH soaked frogs were still sensitive to pressure, still had deep central sulci and significant surface thrush." Her treatment protocols were as follows:

### 5 day No Thrush Treatment

Four hooves on two horses (A and B) were treated every morning with No Thrush for 5 days, with two applications 10 hours apart on the first day only. The hooves were picked clean using a hoof pick, hoof knife, stiff bristle brush and a tooth scraper to remove all loose debris in the lateral sulci and central sulci. When necessary, cotton wool was inserted into the central sulci and a hoofpick used to scrape the cotton wool through the gap to further clean out

dirt and manure. The central sulci were filled with No Thrush, the lateral sulci were dusted with No Thrush, along with any other areas of the frog that were decaying or had a white crumbling appearance.

### 21 day No Thrush and Oxine AH comparison

Four hooves on two horses (A and B) were included in the treatments. The two front hooves of Horse A were assigned to receive only Oxine AH soaks in Davis soaking boots. These soaks were performed daily for 7 days, then every second day for 14 days. The two front hooves of Horse B were assigned to receive both Oxine AH soaks in Clean Trax soaking boots and No Thrush treatment on alternate days. The four hind hooves of Horses A and B received daily No Thrush treatment only.

All feet were picked clean twice daily with a hoof pick. Every morning, immediately prior to treatment, all hooves were scrubbed and washed with dish detergent and a stiff bristled brush until the foam was white or nearly white. Hooves to be treated with Oxine AH received cotton wool inserted into any central sulci large enough to hold the cotton wool and were then placed into soaking boots. Oxine AH was activated using 1/2 tsp citric acid per 60 ml Oxine AH, mixed and allowed to sit for at least 3 minutes, then diluted with 1L of deionized water. Oxine AH soaks lasted 20-30 min. During this time, the No Thrush treated hooves were allowed to air dry and then further cleaned of any minor debris before application of No Thrush as described above. Following an Oxine AH soak, hooves were either left to dry (Horse B) or were towel dried and 40% zinc oxide cream was applied, and dry cotton wool was inserted into the central sulci (Horse A).— Josephine Trott, PhD and Heike Bean