# KRAIBURG PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

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TOPIC: LAMINITIS

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## LAMINITIS - NOT EVERYTHING IS CAUSED BY METABOLISM

An examination by the Veterinary Medical Clinic of Leipzig University reveals: The most important <u>prophylatic factor in the prevention of laminitis</u> is floor construction.

### What is subclinical laminitis and why is this claw disease so important?

Subclinical laminitis is the **most frequent laminitis form in dairy cattle**. The animals affected show no lameness, but at claw trimming yellowish bloody inclusions appear within the horn. **Through the changes in the corium only horn of lower quality can be produced**.



Yellowish red spots in the sole area are typical symptoms of laminitis

Subclinical laminitis is regarded as the primary cause of numerous other claw diseases like sole ulcers, white-line defects, claw tip ulcers, double sole formation and heel horn erosion.



A bluish spot indicates subclinical laminitis.



The dorsal wall is bent, a typical symptom of laminitis.



A double sole, caused by laminitis.

#### **Experimental arrangement:**

- On three large farms 123 Holstein Friesian cows were systematically examined from drying off to finishing the second lactation month.
- Housing systems: Loose housing with cubicles

#### Walking areas:

- farm A (562 cows): mastic asphalt
- farm B (530 cows): walking alleys littered with straw
- farm C (623 cows): rubber covered walking alley floors
- Besides blood analysis for assessing the metabolism, all 8 main claws were checked twice in 8 week intervals after functional claw trimming.
  - After the end of the examination a lameness assessment (locomotion scoring) was conducted.

## The most important results:

- → Farm C with complete rubber floor covering had the fewest subclinical laminitis symptoms.
- $\rightarrow$  An interrelationship between energy metabolism and subclinical laminitis could not be found in this study.

CONCLUSION: Subclinical laminitis was found least often on rubber floors.

**Source:** Prof. Dr. Manfred Fürll, Katrin Wilhelm, Jürgen Wilhelm of the Medical Veterinary Clinic of Leipzig University, Nutztierpraxis aktuell, January 2011

Images: Landwirtschaftsverlag GmbH, top agrar Fachbuch "Klauenprobleme schneller lösen" ["Solve claw problems faster"], 2003



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