

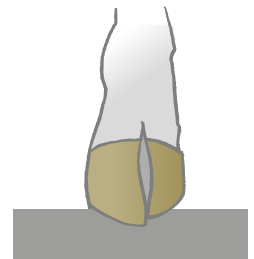
# The outer claw has to be relieved!

Cows naturally are soft soil walkers. It stands to reason then that dairy cows are often afflicted with pressure-related claw diseases (e. g. sole ulcers, double soles, white line disease). Cows' problems with hard floors are due to anatomical reasons.



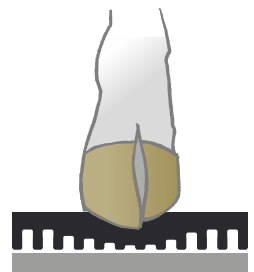
## Difference in length of inner and outer claw

The outer claw is naturally ca. 2 - 3 mm longer, so the cow steps on the outer claw first. On a hard floor, this outer claw must bear the pressure peak of the cow's full weight on its own. This unnatural, **strong pressure on such a small area** increases the risk of mechanical-traumatic claw diseases, 80 % involving the hind outer claws, indicating **overloading as the main cause**.



## Weight distribution by soft floor

On soft floor the **outer claw can sink in**, as the cow's weight is distributed over the entire area including both claws. This **prevents overloading** and provides balance for slight misalignments. Increased activity improves blood circulation and nutrient supply. It also improves the quality of the growing horn – making it more resilient against mechanical and bacterial impacts.



## KRAIBURG rubber flooring relieves pressure to claws

Pressure measurements carried out on cattle claws by the Leipzig University show: reduced pressure peaks through use of rubber (rather than concrete), leading to better pressure distribution – more similar to pasture ground.

Oehme et al., 2018



Figure: Oehme et al., 2018

