**Abaxial surface:** The outside portion of each claw. The abaxial surface is the area that is plainly visible when an animal is standing or moving.

**Abscess:** A localized infection inside the hoof tissue that can cause lameness and requires drainage in order to prevent rupture at the hoof head.

**Axial surface:** The part of each claw that is on the inside. The axial surfaces of claws on one hoof face each other.

**Cloven hoof:** A hoof, like that of a cow, sheep, or goat, that consists of two claws.

**Claw:** The two separate digits (toes) of a cloven hoof.

**Coffin bone:** The same as a pedal bone in cloven-hoofed animals, except that a horse only has one.

**Coronary region:** The region at the top of the hoof, where the new growth comes out.

**Corium:** The part of the hoof that produces the new hoof growth. It contains many nutrients and blood vessels that are necessary to produce new hoof growth, as well as a lot of nerves, which makes it very sensitive. It is very much like the quick of the human fingernail.

**Dew Claw:** The accessory toe at the back of the hoof that serves no function.

**Frog:** The V-shaped region of a horse’s sole. It serves as a shock absorber and as a mechanism to pump blood up through the horse’s leg.

**Foot rot:** A bacterial infection that occurs most commonly in sheep and cows. It is caused by bacteria that thrive and grow in conditions lacking air circulation and oxygen, such as the hoof of animal standing for long periods of time in mud and manure.

**Founder:** The chronic form of laminitis.

**Hairy heel warts:** An infection of the skin between the two claws of the hoof. It occurs mainly in cattle, produces inflamed red sores in the interdigital skin of the hoof. Also called “strawberry warts”.

**Hoof rot:** A bacterial infection that occurs in the hoof of cattle, sheep, and goats.

**Hoof wall:** The hard outer layer of the hoof, similar to a human fingernail, can also be called the hoof horn.

**Horn:** Another name for the hard, outer covering of the hoof, also known as the hoof wall.

**Interdigital cleft:** The space between the two claws of a cloven-hoofed animal.

**Interdigital skin:** The piece of skin that is between the two claws of a cloven-hoofed animal.

**Laminae:** The sensitive tissue inside the hoof that connects the pedal bone to the corium.

**Laminitis:** A non-infectious disease of the hoof that can affect any hoofed animal. It is characterized by lameness, and excessive growth of the hoof, and canrange in severity from mild to very severe and chronic.

**Pedal bone:** The largest bone inside the hoof. The main shape of the hoof is determined by the shape of the pedal bone.

**Perioplic horn:** The soft, new hoof growth that exists in

the coronary region.

**Sole:** The bottom portion of the hoof that the animal actually stands on. It is made of the same type of cells as the hoof wall, only it is slightly softer than the wall.

**Sole bruise:** The crushing of blood vessels between the hoof horn and the bones on the inside of the hoof, usually caused by an animal stepping on something hard or sharp.

**Trimming:** The process by which the extra growth of the hoof wall is cut off or filed down, in order to restore the proper shape of the hoof. Frequency of trimming depends on the species in question and the particular conditions that the animal lives in.

**White Line:** The line around the edge of the sole that is the junction between the sole and the hoof wall on the underside of the hoof.