Foot lesions of dairy cattle

All treatment protocols must be regularly reviewed with your vet and incorporated into the farm's Herd Health Plan.



Sole bruising



horn lesions

claw

Common



Treat: If lame and positive reaction to hoof testers, treat as per sole ulcer.

Sole ulcer



Treat:

Five-step trim, apply block to partner claw (if sound) and administer pain relief.

White line disease



Treat:

Five-step trim, apply block to partner claw (if sound) and administer pain relief.

Digital dermatitis

common lesions

ess





Treat: Clean, dry and apply a licensed

Foul in the foot



Treat: Check and clean between claws,

Interdigital growth





Treat:

Carefully trim any sharp horn around

topical treatment. Repeat 1–2 times daily until healed.

apply licensed topical treatment, administer antibiotics and pain relief.

the growth. Treat any concurrent conditions, e.g. digital dermatitis/foul.

Axial wall fissure

Thin soles



Treat:

Five-step trim, apply block to partner claw (if sound) and administer pain relief.



Treat:

Avoid trimming. If one claw affected, apply block to partner claw, rest cow on soft surface.



Toe ulcer

Treat:

Five-step trim, apply block to partner claw (if sound) and administer pain relief.





Treat: Seek veterinary advice.



Joint sepsis

Treat: Seek veterinary advice.

Top tips for successful blocking:

- Use hoof testers to make sure the claw is not painful
- Prepare claw by removing dirt, but be careful not to remove horn
- Keep glue away from soft heel horn and apply generously in the toe area
- Choose block that is long enough to fully protect the heel
- Make sure the block does not slope inwards and is aligned with toe
- Recheck in 4–6 weeks

AHDB is a statutory levy board, funded by farmers, growers and others in the supply chain. We equip the industry with easy to use, practical know-how which they can apply straight away to make better decisions and improve their performance. For further information, please visit ahdb.org.uk

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Practice good hygiene

Always disinfect your hoof trimming equipment to reduce the spread of infection.









Photo credits: Sole bruising (left), Sole ulcer (left), White line (right), Blocking photo at bottom © Nick Bell, Herd Health Consultancy. Sole bruising (right), White line disease (left), Foul in the foot, Interdigital growth, Necrotic lesions, Joint sepsis, Thin soles © Sara Pedersen, Farm Dynamics Ltd. Axial wall, Toe ulcer C Owen Atkinson, Dairy Veterinary Consultancy Ltd.



Treat:

advice.

Seek veterinary