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Wild Horse Hoof vs. Domestic Horse Hoof

My purpose for conducting this experiment was to determine if a domestic horse could develop a wild horse hoof ware- pattern, when the horse is placed in the right environment and given the opportunity to do so. I hypothesized that domestic horses and wild horses are of the same genotype and origin; therefore the domestic horse is genetically predisposed to grow a wild hoof ware- pattern given the opportunity to do so. By the domestic horses being in the wild environment, this will make their hooves healthier and mitigate the risk of hoof disease.

The procedures of this experiment involved measuring the points of the widest part of the foot, widest part to current rear landing, widest part to break over, widest part to dimple, dot to current rear landing and the angle. To take these measurements I used hoof dividers and a hoof gauge that is used in the Equine Lameness Prevention Organization protocol.

The data that I collected did support my hypothesis . The wild averages were: widest part- 3.06" widest part- current landing – 1.5" widest part - break over- 2.28", widest part- dimple-2.21", dot- current landing .65" and the angle of 55.25o. The domestic averages were: widest part 1.4", widest part- current landing 1.35", 208 widest part to dimple was 1.34" and the dot – current landing was 1.02", and the angle was 48.5o. As the time went on the domestic hooves got smaller and the wild hooves stayed constant throughout the entire time, this also made their hooves healthier.

This led me to believe that when a horse is in the correct environment that a horse can develop a wild hoof ware- pattern and the horse will develop wild hooves, without the interference of farrier work.