

Curriculum for the Education of Certified Hoof Trimmer

Danish Hoof Trimmer School

1. Purpose of the Education

The purpose of the Certified Hoof Trimmer education is to qualify the student to perform professional hoof care based on an anatomically correct, evidence-based, and functional approach.

The program places special emphasis on creating healthy barefoot horses, while also including knowledge and practical training in the use of the Performer Shoe as a shock-absorbing alternative to traditional iron shoes.

2. Duration and Structure of the Education

Duration: 12 months (can be completed part-time alongside work)

Format: Combination of theory, in-person practical training days, and home assignments

Completion: Theoretical and practical exams with certification

3. Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the education, the student will be able to:

- Perform correct anatomical hoof trimming
 - Assess and treat hoof deformities and imbalances
 - Perform trimming and apply the Performer Shoe when needed
 - Identify and contribute to the treatment of hoof-related diseases
 - Advise on nutrition and environmental factors affecting hoof health
 - Document and communicate professionally with horse owners and collaborators
-

4. Structure of the Education

Module 1: Theoretical Foundation

- Hoof anatomy and biomechanics
- Physiological hoof function and hoof mechanism
- Hoof growth and development
- Function of joints, tendons, and ligaments
- The relationship between the foot and the entire musculoskeletal system

Module 2: Practical Trimming

- Anatomically correct trimming in toe/heel balance
- Reconstruction of pathological hooves
- Preventive trimming techniques
- Tool knowledge and safety
- Documentation of case studies

Module 3: Performer Shoe

- Introduction to shock-absorbing shoeing
- When to use the Performer Shoe (not iron shoes)
- Preparation, trimming, and fitting
- Application (gluing) and adjustment
- Follow-up and evaluation

Module 4: Pathology and Rehabilitation

- Hoof-related diseases: White Line Disease, abscesses, shelly feet, etc.
- Assessment of limb conformation and musculoskeletal injuries
- Rehabilitation and long-term recovery
- When the Performer Shoe is relevant as part of a treatment plan

Module 5: Nutrition and Environment

- The importance of nutrition for hoof quality
- The role of protein, amino acids, and forage
- Environmental factors (surface, moisture, movement)
- Prevention of hoof diseases through management

Module 6: Communication and Client Work

- Professional communication with horse owners
 - Collaboration with veterinarians and therapists
 - Ethics and responsibility in hoof care
 - Video documentation and before/after analysis
-

5. Practical Training and Teaching Methods

- 24 in-person practical training days at Danish Hoof Trimmer School
 - Home assignments and documentation of at least 3 case studies
 - Close feedback from highly qualified instructors
-

6. Examination Requirements and Certification

To obtain certification as a Certified Hoof Trimmer, the student must:

- Pass a theoretical written exam
 - Pass a practical exam in trimming and application of the Performer Shoe
 - Complete and document at least 3 case studies
 - Actively participate in teaching and practical training
-

7. Admission Requirements

- Minimum age: 18 years
 - Experience with horses (owning, handling, riding, etc.)
 - Good collaboration skills and sense of responsibility
 - Physical fitness and willingness to perform outdoor manual work
-

8. Philosophy and Professional Foundation

Danish Hoof Trimmer School is based on respect for the horse's natural movement and biological design.

Our approach is knowledge-based, evidence-supported, and practically grounded. We work purposefully to educate highly skilled hoof trimmers who contribute to better equine welfare and sustainable solutions without iron shoes.