

Figure 3 P3 Mythos “Right where it is supposed to be”

### P3-ROTATION: “A BLOODY RED LINE”

Whoever that ancient mythographer of laminitis was, his grand delusion has infected the better judgment and common sense of veterinary and hoof care practitioners ever since. P3-rotation is the ultimate consummation of the laminitis mythos. *There is no such thing as P3-rotation, then, now, or ever:* it lives solely in the imaginations of the mislead, including myself at one time. The sharpest radiograph, the most convincing photo, the eeriest dissection, and the worst alleged case of sinker or P3-penetration imaginable, each and every one only prove one thing: P3, with nothing more than a reasonable natural trim, if even that, *is right where it is supposed to be*—directly under the horse (Figures 2 and 3). It is the hoof wall, not P3, that is in the wrong place . . . and probably in the wrong shape too.

One can draw a bloody red line straight to the heart bar shoe (below) from the illusion. It is the last futile effort of the mythographer’s descendents to prevent the bone from going exactly where it wants, needs, and *has*

to go if the horse is to find relief and a healing. Well, almost the last measure, because if the orthopedic procedure fails, the veterinary surgeon has discovered he can pull the plug out completely by cutting the deep digital flexor tendon so P3 may never find its way home (Figure 4).

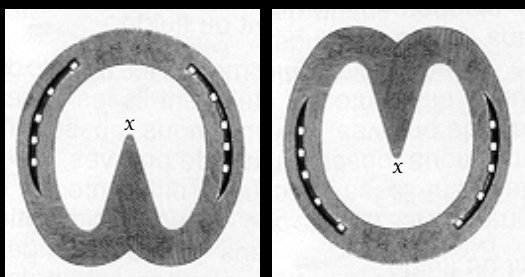
### LAMINITIS: WHAT IS THIS WORD?

Here, at the cutting edge of the laminitis anti-mythos “counter culture”, I cannot even accept the ancient lexicographer’s choice of words, “laminitis”, as being valid! What does the word *laminitis* mean, exactly?

Literarily: “Inflammation of the lamina.” Forgetting, for the moment, that the rest of the coria are also inflamed, and the entire capsule is ready to go, what is a “lamina(e)”? It is a Latin term, meaning “a thin plate”. And what does a “thin plate” have to do with a horse’s foot that is coming apart? Absolutely nothing!

The idea the Ancient Greeks were getting at, of course, was a system of stacked or overlapped plates, like plates of armor or the “laminated” veneers comprising plywood. But not *laminitis* in equines. That, the Greeks, ever astute observers, called “barley foot”, recognizing the dietary implications. So, whoever later coined the term laminitis was really astray, in my opinion.

But back to this business of inflamed lamina. While the inner hoof wall attachment mechanism (the “leaf-like” lamina, Figure 1) is, indeed, inflamed, “angry” and dysfunctional, so potentially is the rest of the hoof-to-horse attachment apparatus. Since I refuse to ignore the



**Heart-Bar Shoe: the rear or heel of the shoe is closed off with a heart bar (the “heart” shape is not evident until the shoe is inverted, top, right). The tip of the heart bar (x) is so situated as to give “support” to the “rotating” coffin bone and dropped sole.**