

# Information for Participants and Auditors



**Hoof Trimming  
for Horse Owners 101**  
*a one-day clinic*

**Saturday November 5, 2011 9am-4pm**  
**K-I-N Stables Athens, AL**

Questions? Contact:

**Instructor:**

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**Host:**

Jim Swanner

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## What's this all about?

Join us for a one-day clinic that delivers the fundamental concepts and skills needed to trim a healthy, well-maintained hoof using a rasp and a hoof stand, and to check hoof balance using the sole as a guide. Auditors participate fully in classroom activities and hoof trimming demo, and observe during the hands-on trimming session.

## What's the general plan for the day?

- classroom time with a mix of learning activities and interactive demos
- lunch break
- hoof trimming demonstration with Q&A
- hands-on practice – trim at least one hoof from start to finish

## What to wear and bring:

Wear work pants or jeans and sturdy shoes. The hands-on hoof trimming session will involve sharp tools and dirty, smelly, stomping hoofs, so your clothes and shoes may get dirty or torn. No shorts or sandals, please – closed-toe shoes required for safety.

Bring a folding chair, notebook, pen, camera. Other classroom materials will be provided. Take all the photos and video you like!

For participation in the hands-on trimming session:

Close-fitting work gloves and a hoof rasp with handle are required. Bring a hoof stand if you have one. Work gloves, professional quality hoof rasps, and rasp handles will be available for purchase at the clinic. Flip to the last page of this document for a list of other recommended tools, gear, and suppliers.

## Lunch and Drinks:

Cold drinking water will be available throughout the day. We'll take orders for box lunches from Lawler's BBQ to be delivered at the lunch break, or bring your own lunch. If you'd like to bring food to share, wrapped snacks that don't need refrigeration and that might double as dessert (muffins, cookies, brownies, bagels, granola bars, breakfast bars) are always appreciated!

## What we will cover during the classroom and demo sessions:

Basic procedure and techniques for trimming the hoof wall using a hoof rasp and hoof stand, including:

Hoof anatomy inside and out	Backing up the toe
How often to trim	Scooping the quarters
Splits, cracks, and flares	Beveling or rolling the hoof wall
Safety	Checking your work
Tool tips and techniques	Balancing the hoof

The material covered in this clinic is intended to provide participants with the knowledge and experience to confidently perform a basic barefoot trim on healthy, regularly-maintained hoofs. With continued practice and occasional guidance from a professional, hands-on participants should be on their way to becoming self-sufficient in the hoof care department.

## What we won't cover during the classroom and demo sessions (but we may have time to talk about one-on-one during the hands-on session):

Trimming diseased or problem hoofs – contraction, navicular syndrome, founder, long toe with under-run heels, underdeveloped digital cushion, thin sole  
Trimming bars, sole, and frog  
Trimming with hoof nippers, hoof knives, and angle grinders

## How to get the most out of the clinic:

Take notes and ask questions! The more you put into the learning experience, the more you'll take away from it. Plus, you never know when someone who speaks up with a question or observation might get a fun little prize for bravery!

Be prepared to practice what you've learned on your own as soon as you can, while everything is fresh in your mind.

Take time before and after the clinic to study the videos, articles, photos, and drawings about hoof trimming and hoof health, available for free on the following websites:

Marjorie Smith's articles on [www.barefoothorse.com](http://www.barefoothorse.com)  
Paige Poss' articles on [www.ironfreehoof.com](http://www.ironfreehoof.com)  
Pete Ramey's articles on [www.hoofrehab.com](http://www.hoofrehab.com)  
Gene Ovnicek's articles on [www.hopeforsoundness.com](http://www.hopeforsoundness.com)  
Hoofjack videos on [www.hoofjack.com](http://www.hoofjack.com)

Watch these recommended hoof trimming how-to videos:

Pete Ramey's 'Under the Horse' DVD set, available from [www.hoofrehab.com](http://www.hoofrehab.com)  
Gene Ovnicek's 'Natural Balance Hoof Trimming' DVD, available from [www.hopeforsoundness.com](http://www.hopeforsoundness.com)  
Phil Morarre's 'Abrasive Trim Clinic' DVD, available from [www.softouchnaturalhorsecare.com](http://www.softouchnaturalhorsecare.com)  
Many of these videos are available to rent at a reasonable cost through [www.giddyupflix.com](http://www.giddyupflix.com).

Study the hoof care books listed in this article: <http://wp.me/pQCvn-2l>

### **If you plan to participate in the hands-on trimming, but won't be bringing a horse:**

Please let us know in advance that you are planning to participate in the hands-on hoof trimming session, but will not be bringing a horse – so that we can arrange to have a practice horse available.

### **If you plan to bring your horse (or mule or donkey):**

Please let us know in advance that you are planning to bring your horse, so we can prepare to comfortably accommodate him (or her).

Current negative Coggins for each visiting horse must be submitted with clinic registration forms or presented for inspection before unloading horse from trailer – no exceptions.

Plan to arrive a few minutes early to check in and get your horse settled. Let us help direct you to trailer parking and turnaround.

Stalls are available for day use at a cost of \$10.

Please bring your own water bucket and hay from home. Please clean stall before leaving for the day. No stallions, ungelded colts, mares with foals at side, or fractious or unhandled horses.

### **This and that:**

No visiting dogs, please.

No smoking inside structures or anywhere on the grounds at K-I-N Stables, please.

Clinic participants and auditors must observe posted barn rules of K-I-N Stables.

The restroom is located in the hallway near the speaker's stand.

### **Inclement weather:**

All activities will be under cover inside the barn and covered arena at K-I-N Stables - the clinic will take place rain or shine.

### **Can I really learn to do this?**

Hoof trimming isn't rocket science. Performing a basic trim on healthy, well-maintained hoofs is within the capabilities of virtually everyone with a desire to learn, the proper tools, some horse-handling skills, and a cooperative equine partner.

Some physical stamina and strength is helpful, but many a determined trimmer has used innovative tools and techniques to overcome physical barriers such as arthritis, back problems, and limited mobility.

A motivated owner can often provide higher quality hoof care than a professional who only sees the horse every 4-6 weeks. An owner can tweak and fine-tune a horse's hoofs through day-to-day observation, attention to detail, and knowledge of every quirk under saddle and over varying terrain.

There's quite a difference between having the satisfying ability to tidy up the hoofs of one or two personal horses any time you please, and the demands of having to safely deal with many horses with a range of temperaments, performance and rehabilitation goals, and current and future problems to consider. You can learn the basics in a day, and then spend the rest of your life broadening your experience, deepening your understanding of anatomy and biomechanics, mastering new tools and techniques, and keeping up-to-date with advances in research and diagnostic tools. Welcome to the journey!



# HoofSmart

## Recommended Hoof Trimming Tools

Please note: the list below is for your convenience. The only tools required for participation in the workshop are a hoof rasp and rasp handle. You may bring those items with you, and they will also be available for purchase at the workshop.

Item	Manufacturer	Description	Price	Supplier
Hoof Stand	Equine Innovations	Standard Hoofjack hoof stand	\$185.00	<a href="http://www.nctoolco.com">www.nctoolco.com</a>
Hoof Rasp	Heller	Legend 14"	\$22.50	<a href="http://www.nctoolco.com">www.nctoolco.com</a>
Hoof Rasp	Wood-Miller	Super Sharp 14"	\$15.95	<a href="http://www.jeffersequine.com">www.jeffersequine.com</a>
Rasp Handle	Nordic Forge	Twist-on Rasp Handle	\$3.95	<a href="http://www.jeffersequine.com">www.jeffersequine.com</a>
Farriers Apron	C&M	Cordura Apron with suede patches and safety breakaway snaps	\$112.00	<a href="http://www.nctoolco.com">www.nctoolco.com</a>
Hoof Knives	Friedr. Dick Company	Gripmaster style, left and right handed	\$31.95	<a href="http://www.star-ridge.com">www.star-ridge.com</a>
Sharpening Steel	Istor	4" sharpening steel	\$14.95	<a href="http://www.star-ridge.com">www.star-ridge.com</a>
Crook Sharpener	Friedr. Dick Company	Pocket crook sharpener	\$11.95	<a href="http://www.star-ridge.com">www.star-ridge.com</a>
Hoof Nippers	GE	15" Hoof Nippers	\$201.00	<a href="http://www.nctoolco.com">www.nctoolco.com</a>
Mini Half Round Nippers	Oriental Touch	Bonsai Knob Cutters (set of two)	\$29.99	<a href="http://www.amazon.com">www.amazon.com</a>
Crease Nail Puller	Lopez	Crease Nail Puller	\$86.00	<a href="http://www.nctoolco.com">www.nctoolco.com</a>
Magnet	--	3" round magnet (extra magnet for Hoofjack)	\$7.50	<a href="http://www.nctoolco.com">www.nctoolco.com</a>
Nipper Spring	W-Brand	Nipper Spring	\$9.99	<a href="http://www.nctoolco.com">www.nctoolco.com</a>
Rasp Grip	Thera-Flex	Hand Saver Rasp Covers	\$5.65	<a href="http://www.nctoolco.com">www.nctoolco.com</a>