• 90% of lameness is due to problems in the foot
• Two most common problems, footrot and toe abscess, require different treatments
• Watch animal in motion to pinpoint lameness location
• Pick up foot, wash and examine to determine cause of lameness

**Footrot** - Infection of skin between the toes

- **Diagnosis**
  - Symmetrical swelling
  - Foul smell
  - Broken skin (ulcers) between toes
- **Treatment**
  - Wash until clean
  - Topical antiseptic
  - Responds well to antibiotics approved for footrot
- **Prevention**
  - Handle animals and inspect facilities to minimize injury
  - Correct I.D. and treatment of toe abscesses and footrot

**Toe Abscess** - Toe abrasion, subsequent infection in claw

- **Diagnosis**
  - Walking on the toes
  - Extremely painful
  - Worn sole and tip of toe
  - No swelling; normal skin
- **Treatment**
  - Tip toe to drain abscess and relieve pressure; DO NOT TRIM ENOUGH TO CAUSE BLEEDING
  - Select long duration antibiotics
  - House in clean/dry environment
  - May require extended therapy
- **Prevention**
  - Quiet/calm cattle handling
  - Provide nonabrasive footing in alleys and working areas

**Swollen Septic Joint**

- **Diagnosis**
  - Swelling at coronary band or over other joint areas
  - Primary cause is injury
  - Toe abscesses or foot rot not treated can become septic joints
- **Treatment**
  - No effective treatment
  - Management; humane care
- **Prevention**
  - Quiet/calm cattle handling
  - Routine facility inspection and maintenance

**Injured Foot**

- **Diagnosis**
  - Observe animal in motion
  - May be visually obvious (swelling, etc.)
  - Rule out foot causes for lameness
- **Treatment**
  - Consult your veterinarian
- **Prevention**
  - Quiet/calm cattle handling
  - Routine facility inspection and maintenance

**Upper Leg**

- **Diagnosis**
  - Swelling of leg
  - Foul smell
  - Broken skin (ulcers)
- **Treatment**
  - Wash until clean
  - Topical antiseptic
  - Responds well to antibiotics approved for footrot
- **Prevention**
  - Pen maintenance
  - Improve integrity of skin with proper nutrition

**Laminitis**

- **Diagnosis**
  - Walk softly with very short steps
  - Affects both sides
  - Tender to stand with feet forward
- **Treatment**
  - Generally no effective treatment
- **Prevention**
  - Quiet/calm cattle handling
  - Provide nonabrasive footing in alleys and working areas

**Hairy Heel Warts**

- **Diagnosis**
  - Walk to protect toes
  - Extremely painful
  - Worn sole and tip of toe
  - No swelling; normal skin
- **Treatment**
  - Topical application of oxytetracycline; either spray or bandage
  - Footbaths
  - Antibiotic treatment
- **Prevention**
  - Examine newly purchased cattle; treat immediately if disease is present
  - Pen maintenance
  - Vaccination

### FOOTPRINTS

- Normal, healthy foot
- Too shallow
- Too deep
- Correct

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**Consult Your Veterinarian to Develop Specific Lameness Programs**

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