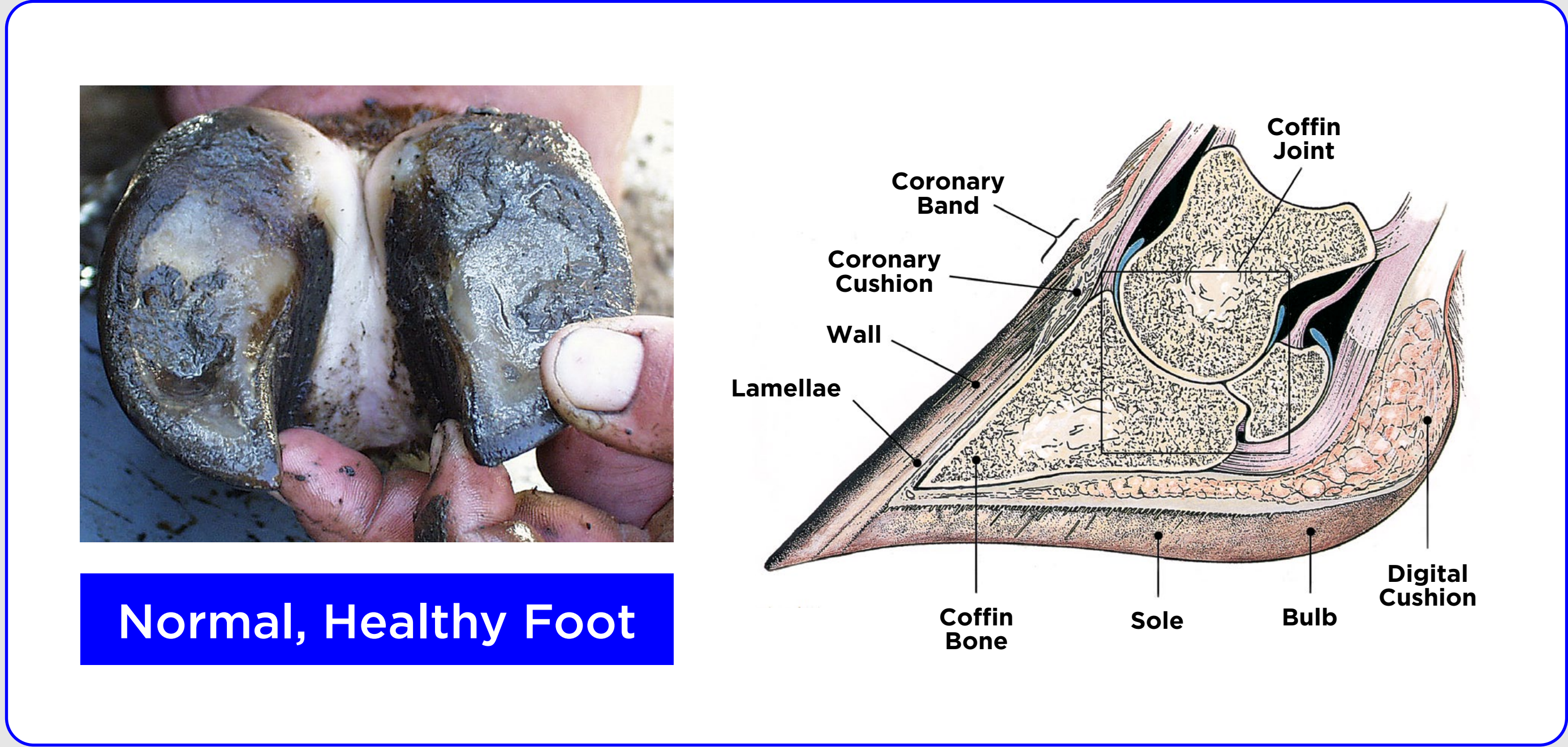


# IDENTIFYING LAMENESS IN BEEF CATTLE



- 90% of lameness is due to problems in the foot
- Two most common problems, foot rot 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



## Foot Rot - Infection of skin between the toes



**Diagnosis**

- Sudden symmetrical swelling
- Foul smell
- Broken skin (ulcers) between toes



**Treatment**

- Wash until clean
- Topical antiseptic
- Responds well to antibiotics approved for foot rot



**Prevention**

- Pen maintenance
- Improve integrity of skin with proper nutrition

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



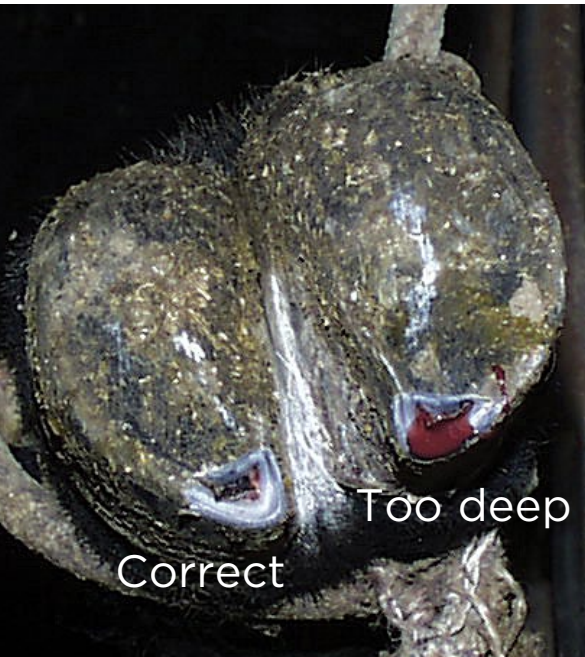
**Diagnosis**

- Walk to protect toe(s)
- 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 footrot not treated can become septic joints

**Treatment**

- No effective treatment
- Management; humane care

**Prevention**

- Handle animals and inspect facilities to minimize injury
- Correct I.D. and treatment of toe abscesses and footrot

## Injured Foot



**Diagnosis**

- Visual evidence of injury

**Treatment**

- Antibiotic for secondary infection
- Bandage as necessary

**Prevention**

- Quiet/calm cattle handling
- Routine facility inspection and maintenance

## Upper Leg



**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

## Laminitis



**Diagnosis**

- Walk softly with very short steps
- Affects both sides
- Tend to stand with feet forward

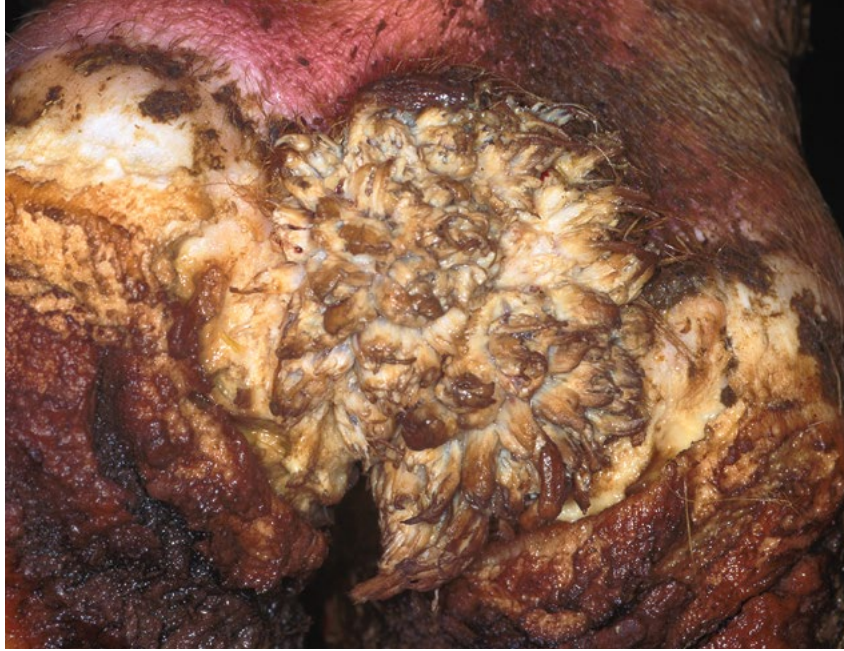
**Treatment**

- Generally no effective treatment

**Prevention**

- Consistent bunk management
- Adequate step-up rations

## Hairy Heel Warts



**Diagnosis**

- Reluctance to walk or walks on toes
- Raw, bright-red lesion in heel area
- Lesion may have hair-like growths; lesions are infectious and become chronic if left untreated

**Treatment**

- Topical application of antibiotic; either spray or bandage
- Footbaths
- Antibiotic treatment

**Prevention**

- Examine newly purchased cattle; treat immediately if disease is present
- Pen maintenance
- Improve skin integrity with proper nutrition

CONSULT YOUR VETERINARIAN TO DEVELOP  
SPECIFIC LAMENESS PROGRAMS

For more information:  
contact your Zinpro  
representative or visit  
[zinpro.com/beef](http://zinpro.com/beef)



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