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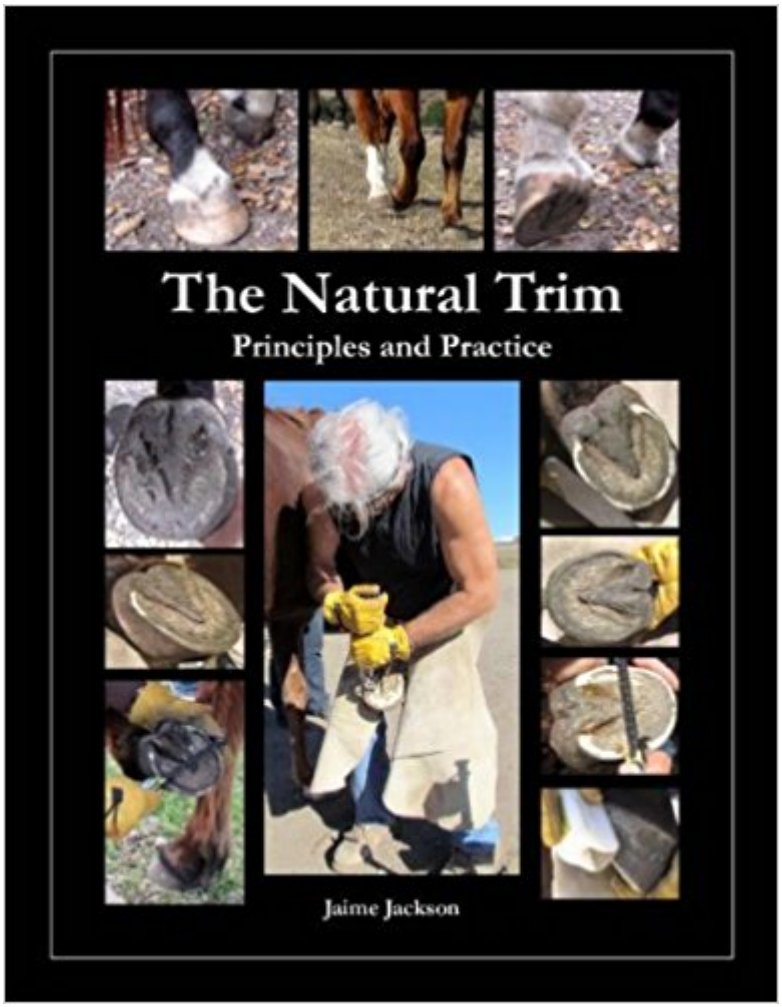
The Natural Trim: Principles And Practice



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Synopsis

The Natural Trim: Principles & Practice is the first release by the world renowned wild horse and hoof care expert, Jaime Jackson, since the 2007 publication of his revolutionary book, "Paddock Paradise: A Guide to Natural Horse Boarding" and 20 years since his first book was published, The Natural Horse: Lessons from the Wild (1992/Northland Publishing/Star Ridge). The Natural Trim is for any interested in horses - as an owner or as a professional. Because the health of the horse shows up in its hooves, the condition of the hoof is to the horse what the canary is to the coalminer. The book looks at the species, equus ferus caballus, and shows the reader why the sound, healthy and fit, wild & free-roaming Great Basin Mustang should serve as the universal model of health for all domestic horses. Part I focuses on all aspects of healthy horsekeeping and Part II provides step by step guidelines to conducting this humane, barefoot trim method based on the U.S. Great Basin Mustangs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Yeah. This book though. Its a great example of the problems inherent with assumptions instead of using science to guide your decisions. After frustrations with inherent problems associated with finding good farriers to trim in the country, I was ready to give barefoot shoeing a shot. But the things they advocate are intended to be "nature’s way" are seriously flawed when you examine the logic behind them.Among the things that bothered me in his technique was the recommendation to trim the horse’s hoof down to "hypersensitivity" and even bleeding. Soring your horse is never an

acceptable way to trim him, and "quicking" him, i.e. causing him to bleed when you trim him, is a great way to introduce outside contaminants to the inner workings of the horse and cause abscess and disease from the inside out.But there are more issues in this book than that.For example - you are intended to perpetually keep your horse trimmed at the "hoof's state is is seen in nature" - which is by its very nature at its most worn down. So then how, you may ask, would this support a horse in work Ã¢Â Â" much less heavy work? Well their answer is it doesn't. In fact, they advocate not having your horse in sporthorse work and they advocate not using barefoot boots. Which really invalidates the point of considering barefoot trimming for most of us, who didn't purchase the horse just to keep the lawn mowed.TL;DR Lets also, for one minute, discuss the premise the entire book is based on - that the way the wild horse's hooves are shaped is the ideal way your horse's hooves are shaped. Is the way a horse bears a foal in nature the ideal way, wherein about 50% of fetuses are borne successfully without death to mare or foal? Is an utter lack of forage during droughts or hard winters the ideal way? Is the footing in a drought or in a muddy winter the ideal way? Is constantly running from predators and being on edge the ideal way? Is an average lifespan half or less of the domesticated horse an ideal way? No? This is because the wild horse lives in a NATURAL manner, not an ideal one; in the modern world we seem to confuse these two a lot. Our horse's hooves have also changed a considerable amount with selective breeding to adapt them to different conditions and for different purposes. For thousands of years now, our horses have not been bred for survival in the wild - in fact, if we turned them all loose into the wild, I imagine the vast majority of them would not make it Ã¢Â Â" just like your dog wouldn't if you did the same with him, and for that matter his toenails probably would not be ideally trimmed either! In much the same way, a mustang roll is not going to give your horse's hooves the grip he needs to move effectively in a sand arena when he's trying to clear a jump, or stay sound and not worn down with repeated movement on gritty footing in an arena.I'm not saying you should go back to your farrier and put all your horses in shoes; on the contrary, there is a massive difference between a great farrier putting great trims on your barefoot horses, and a decent farrier putting decent trims on your barefoot horses. Usually, its soundness. My point is - don't dismiss all trim methods or barefoot trims in general. There's still a right way to go about trimming a horse for regular barefoot work. But.. what this book contains is not it, so steer clear.

I wrote the foreword for this book - so I could be viewed as prejudiced. But I wrote it because I believe every word written in here and have seen the natural trim - when combined with other elements of natural horse care including the proper 'reasonably natural' diet and natural boarding

conditions (i.e., Paddock Paradise) - evidenced over and over and over again. Every horse, every discipline, every breed will benefit from being trimmed in this manner. Let these protocols demonstrate that the often-heard idea that the hoof has been bred off the horse is simply a myth. Can’t say enough about the information in this book and others by Jaime Jackson.

So informative it will make you ask..WHY the hell do we still shoe our horses?The Natural trim is more for student and professional trimmers. There is a great deal of ’assumed’ knowledge in his latest book.(The Guide to natural hoof care is more user friendly and designed for the lay person.)If you Like Jackson you’ll like , Welz, and Pete Ramey too.I own a crap ton of hoof care books. And it really comes down to doing what technique is best for that particular horse.A must have in the natural hoof care collection.

I lost my barefoot trimmer and had another person trim my animals. he did a bad job. I was hoping to be able to help myself. I have had horses for 35 years, so not a newbie. this book didn’t tell me enough. it had a lot of principal, which is ok, but not what I wanted. perhaps I just got the wrong book.

The author consistently references his own works and observations as proof - work and observations that have been mistakenly interpreted by the author, based on the knowledge available at the time. Knowledge & education have came a long way, so don’t live in the past. To be fair, I have read earlier books by Jamie, and applaud them. The editor of this book is not the same as earlier books- and the editor here seems like a love-sick loon to me- and almost had me dismiss the whole book. Is there good meat in this book? Yes, of course, and years of experience-but not education to take home. Be prepared to sift through mounds of self-aggrandizement but DON’T! judge Jackson by this book alone.If anyone is truly interested in the barefoot natural hoof model, please invest in your horse and read "Effects of environment on the Feral Horse Hoof" by Dr. Brian Hampson and Professor Chris Pollitt. I would also highly advise reading "Care and rehabilitation of the equine foot" by Pete Ramey et. al.

Good info for both the professional and beginner.

It is a wonderful book. If you are thinking about buying it, just do it you won’t be disappointed. Buy it, buy it, buy it!

Excellent review or for beginners too!

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