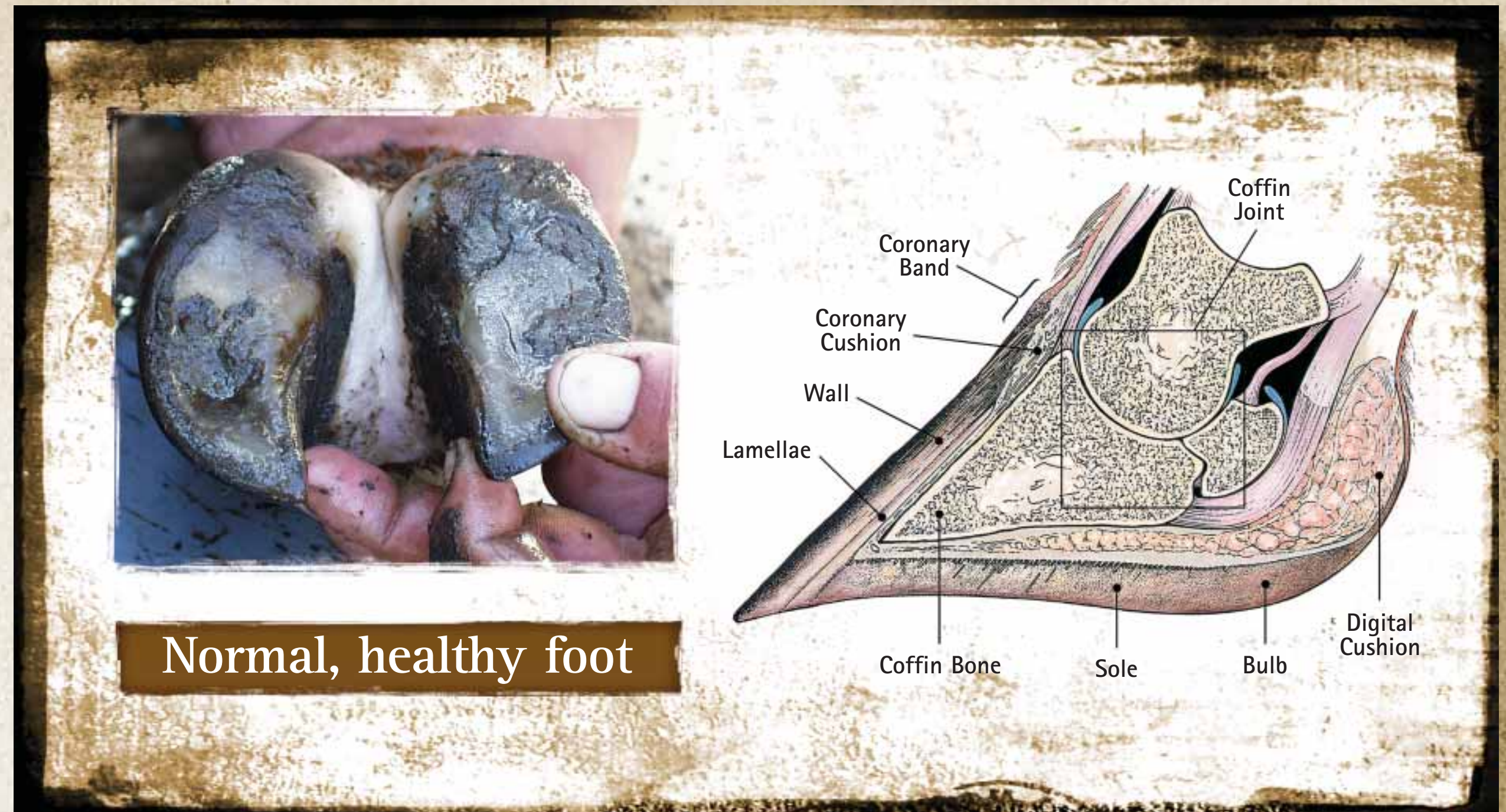


BEEF CATTLE LAMENESS

IDENTIFYING CATTLE LAMENESS PROBLEMS

- 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

- 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
- Raw, bright-red lesion in heel area
- Lesion may have hair-like growths
- Primarily found in dairy-beef

Treatment

- Topical application of oxytetracycline; either spray or bandage

Prevention

- Footbaths
- Antibiotic treatment
- Examine newly purchased cattle; treat immediately if disease is present
- Pen maintenance

CONSULT YOUR VETERINARIAN TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC LAMENESS PROGRAMS



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