

Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD)



What is hoof wall separation disease (HWSD)?

- Autosomal recessive inherited disease in Connemara ponies
- Characterized by separation and cracking of the outer hoof wall, beginning at an early age.
- Affected ponies support their weight on the sole of the hoof instead of the hoof wall, which can lead to severe lameness.
- A DNA test is available. Carriers are unaffected but can produce affected offspring if bred to other carriers.

What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- The Connemara Pony Breeders Society (CPBS) requires genetic testing for all new registrations, unless they are the progeny of non-carrier parents. Samples should be submitted through the CPBS.
- For testing not related to registration, hair samples can be submitted directly to the UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory.
- Owners should avoid breeding carriers to other carriers, but they may breed carriers to non-carriers to maintain desirable traits and maintain genetic diversity in the breed.

Signs

Breaks & cracks in hoof wall
Weight-bearing problems
Trouble keeping shoes on
Proliferative horn on soles of hooves

Transmission

Autosomal recessive inheritance

Treatment

There is no treatment or “cure”.
Management options are available, but are expensive and labor-intensive

**If your horse needs medical care, contact the Large Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393.*



UCDAVIS
VETERINARY MEDICINE
Center for Equine Health

ceh.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/health-topics