

CASE STUDY - Lily

by Reshad Oberlander, SHP



Lily is a 21-month-old Quarter Horse filly who was rescued from certain euthanasia.



Lily - just arrived 25th October 2002



Lily - 20th May 2003

The sole survivor of a twin birth, Lily was confined to a small wet paddock early on in life when she appeared to be developing some sort of problem in her limbs. However, this only accentuated the issue and the owner pursued other methods of treatment including homeopathic, traditional veterinary medicine and orthopaedic shoes.

When the problem did not begin to resolve, it seemed that euthanasia was soon to be the only option left. However, when a client told me about this young filly, we quickly contacted the owners and presented them with an option to save little Lily.

On October 25th 2002, Lily arrived at an arranged half-way point where she would spend the night before continuing her journey to my property a further 3.5 hours away.

Lily was forced to stand as a cat might while stretching. Her front limbs were placed far in front of her. Due to joint adaptation in her limbs, Lily's hooves rolled forward onto the face of the hoof wall and the heels did not bear any weight at all.

Due to the problems in her limbs, Lily was also found to have almost no back muscles to assist in correcting her posture. Dr. Strasser, who was present at the initial treatment, advised a great deal of body treatment and movement, in addition to the twice weekly trimming.

The first trim required approximately 4-5 hours of work where numerous ways of getting Lily's hooves to lower the heels were tried. In the end, a vast improvement was made on the original condition and Lily was returned to her paddock with several other equines for the night.

Now 10 months down the track, Lily has come a long way and is far better off than she might have been without the Strasser method. Her right front hoof now sits completely on the ground and the left front is well on the way to proper weight bearing. Lily now stands quite comfortably in the paddock with her equine friends and is very much the active young horse.

While still a long way from optimal hoof form and body condition, Lily has proven to many people that there are few situations when it is all too much and that the Strasser method really does work.



Right front - January 2003



Close up of Lily's front hoof October 2003 just prior to her first trim



Right front - May 2003



Left front - May 2003

Update February 2004:

As of Feb 2004, Lily is now cared for by Julie Leidl SHP. We will occasionally update the photos and let you all know how Lily is going. She is certainly a happy little horse and we are pleased with her amazing progress so far.



Lily - February 2004



Note: Toe has been left a little longer to help keep heels on the ground.



This photo taken straight after trim and it took a day or so for Lily to weight the heel. An old coronet abscess is seen growing half way down toe wall.

Update 2005:

Yes, these are the same feet. The left front still cannot weight the heels fully yet but the changes have been dramatic.



Left front - July 2005



Right front - July 2005



Left front solar- July 2005



Right front solar- July 2005



Side view of hind feet



This is Lily - July 2005 with Gail Bateman, AEBM president

Lily is truly an amazing case. She is happy and friendly (although sometimes she thinks she is a human!)

At no stage during the time that I have looked after Lily (since January 2004) have I thought that Lily was not comfortable and happy.

Due to the problems that Lily suffered with her hooves, they simply have not grown and developed to be of a correct size or shape. Lily is sound and runs around with her herd but I am not sure that she will ever be useful as a riding horse or for breeding. That being said, we are happy to have her and she certainly seems happy enough to be alive.

- Julie Leitl