

JAIME JACKSON - HORSE HOOF CARE LECTURER - BIOGRAPHY

Jaime Jackson (born 1947) is a horse hoof care lecturer, author, and researcher on wild and domestic horse hooves. He is best known for the practice of natural hoof care first written about in *The Natural Horse: Lessons from the Wild* (1992).

Career

The Natural Horse was based upon Jackson's studies from 1982 until 1986 of the Mustang in its natural environment in the Great Basin of the western United States. Jackson discovered that not only did wild horses live longer than domestic horses, but they also suffered none of the hoof maladies that plague those kept in 'captivity', notably navicular syndrome and laminitis. Following his research, he began experimenting on the hooves of domestic horses to find an effective way to trim their feet and allow them to remain barefoot and strong. In 1990 he stopped all shoeing of horses and instead began to advocate for the wild-horse trim. He believed that even horses with severe hoof conditions deemed incurable by veterinarians and farriers could, over time, be restored to good health through barefoot trimming and natural horse care (i.e., naturalization of the diet and boarding situation).

In the early 2000s, Jackson created the American Association of Natural Hoof Care Practitioners (AANHCP), a non-profit organization devoted to education, training and certification of the natural hoof care practitioner. Since then, the organization has expanded its scope and has changed its name to the Association for the Advancement of Natural Horse Care Practices. Jackson is its executive director.

The guiding principles to natural hoof care, according to Jackson, are:

1. Leave that which should be there naturally.
2. Take only that which should be worn away naturally in the wild.
3. Allow to grow that which should be there naturally but is not due to unnatural forces.
4. Ignore all pathology.

Within a few years, a large, worldwide barefoot movement formed to promote the healthy benefits of barefootedness and natural horse care. According to veterinarian Robert Cook, Professor of Surgery Emeritus at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in Massachusetts, Jackson provided "indisputable evidence, available for more than a decade, disproving the claim that domesticated horses need shoes."^[*citation needed*]

Jackson's book, *Paddock Paradise: A Guide to Natural Boarding* (2006), further advances the concept of using natural horse care to restore and maintain optimal health.

Jackson resides in Central California and maintains an active trimming and rehabilitation clientele.

Paddock Paradise and natural boarding

This natural horse boarding concept was introduced by Jackson in his book, *Paddock Paradise, A Guide to Natural Horse Boarding* (Star Ridge Publishing). The premise of this

boarding model is to provide safe, humane living conditions that use the horse's natural instincts, and thus to stimulate and facilitate movement and other behaviors that are essential to a biodynamically sound horse.

Jackson concluded from his studies based on the behavior of wild horses, that domesticated horses appear thrive physically, mentally and emotionally if kept in an environment that takes into consideration the most basic elements of their natural world by situating and propelling them into forward movement. According to Jackson, who founded the American Association of Natural Hoof Care Practitioners (AANHCP) in 2002, the hoof is adaptively cross-linked to the nexus of natural behavior and movement and can be restored to its native integrity and soundness by putting horses in such a simulated natural environment.

The paddock paradise model is unlike a traditional situation with stalls, small paddocks and/or lush green pastures (which Jackson calls "founder traps"). It is designed to encourage movement through the creation of a series of fenced paths with a quantity of various stimuli such as strategically placed feeding spots and watering holes that are incorporated within or alongside the track in order to activate curiosity or movement. Natural horse care practices include elements of natural hoof care, encouraging herd mentality, foraging for small amounts of food strategically available throughout the day, maintaining a watering hole near or at the source of drinking water, and behaviors related to horses as prey animals, relative dominance (pecking order), grooming, resting and sleeping behaviors.

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