Infectious hoof diseases in Finland 2015
Infectious hoof diseases are an emerging problem in Finland. Various diseases and their similarity in different stages of the disease, thus somewhat different treatment and prognosis, can be puzzling. In some cases, incorrect diagnosis can lead to unnecessary antibiotic treatments or hoof bathing. To make a clinical diagnosis as correct as possible is crucial to practitioners, hoof trimmers and farmers.

This colour atlas was made for educational purposes in a research project of infectious hoof diseases in Finland. The main focus of the project was on interdigital phlegmon (interdigital necrobacillosis, foot rot, foul in the foot). The project was a co-operation between University of Helsinki and Evira, Food Safety Authority. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Valio Ltd are acknowledged for funding the project.

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1. Healthy hoof

The interdigital cleft is healthy, but mild heel horn erosion exists in pictures below.
2. Interdigital phlegmon

Possible fever, lameness and symmetric swelling in hoof region.

2.1. Interdigital phlegmon, acute, no ulceration is detectable.
2.2. Interdigital phlegmon, acute, ulceration exists

2.3. Interdigital phlegmon during a healing process

These cows were treated with penicillin for 5 days. The pictures were taken 4-11 days after the treatment.
2.4. Interdigital phlegmon

A prolonged healing process, several treatments with antibiotics.
3. Digital dermatitis (DD) lesions in Finland
3.1. PDD, verrucose dermatitis
4. Interdigital dermatitis (ID)
5. Heel horn erosion
6. Interdigital hyperplasia
7. Complex cases: ID or DD?

Several infectious hoof diseases in a same hoof