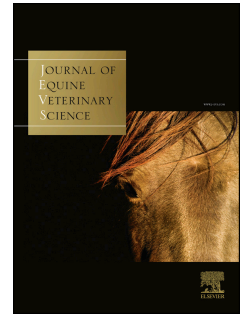


# Accepted Manuscript

A cross-sectional survey of forelimb hoof conformation and the prevalence of flat feet in a cohort of Thoroughbred racehorses in New Zealand

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## **A cross-sectional survey of forelimb hoof conformation and the prevalence of flat feet in a cohort of Thoroughbred racehorses in New Zealand.**

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Short title: hoof conformation in racing thoroughbreds

### **Abstract**

Racehorses in New Zealand predominantly train counter clockwise. This training pattern has been associated with between forelimb differences in Bone Mineral Density profile and asymmetrical limb loading after training. At present there is limited data on the hoof conformation of these racehorses.

Distal forelimb and digital hoof conformation data were collected from 75 Thoroughbred racehorses (2 – 5 years old) from two training yards. Digital conformation was subjectively graded, and multiple hoof measurements were made with a modified tyre gauge (sole and sulci depth) and from digital photographs

All the horses were shod by two registered master farriers within a median of 15 (IQR 1-25) days before measurement. There were few distal limb conformation abnormalities scored. Most (62/75) horses presented with some deviation from normal hoof parameters, with 2(IQR

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