

# AMERICAN FARRIER'S ASSOCIATION



## THERAPEUTIC ENDORSEMENT EXAMINATION INFORMATION

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**American Farrier's Association**  
**Therapeutic Endorsement Examination Information**

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR THERAPEUTIC ENDORSEMENT

The American Farrier's Association (AFA) has established the following requirements for obtaining the Therapeutic Endorsement:

- a. Current membership status with the AFA.
- b. Having successfully passed the requirements for the AFA Certified Journeyman Farrier examination.
- c. Having successfully passed the requirements for the Therapeutic Endorsement examination. The examination is composed of a written examination, a shoe display, two case presentations, forging examination, and an oral case-based examination.

To be eligible to sit for the examination, candidates must be current AFA members, have successfully passed the AFA Certified Journeyman Farrier examination, and inform the Chair of the Examination Committee (Gerard Laverty) of their intention to sit the examination prior to **December 1**.

Candidates sitting for the examination for the first time must take all five (5) sections. Candidates sitting for the examination for the second or third time must take all sections not successfully completed previously. All five (5) sections must be successfully completed to obtain the Therapeutic Endorsement. Candidates are allowed three (3) attempts to pass all portions of the examination. The time limit to successfully complete all sections of the examination is five (5) years from the first attempt. Candidates who successfully complete all sections of the examination will be issued a certificate indicating they have achieved the Therapeutic Endorsement from the American Farrier's Association.

Candidates who fail one or more sections of the examination the first or second time and plan to retake those sections must notify the AFA office of their intentions before **December 1** in the year immediately preceding the scheduled examination. Candidates should confirm that the AFA office has their current addresses including email. Failed candidates will be assigned advisors who are current members of the Examination Committee to provide constructive comments regarding attempting the exam again.

Failure to successfully complete all five (5) sections of the examination after three (3) attempts will require complete reexamination of all five (5) sections of the exam.

## EXAMINATION DESCRIPTION

The examination consists of five (5) sections: written exam, shoe display, forging exam, case presentations, and an oral case-based exam. All portions of the exam will be administered at the AFA Annual Convention. Questions for the examination are made and reviewed by the Examination Committee of the American Farrier's Association. Each question is validated by securing a reference source that corroborates the information in the question.

### 1. Written Examination

The Written Examination requires candidates to be able to develop comprehensive written answers to questions involving anatomy, physiology, pathology, lameness and podiatry solutions. Each candidate's written examination is graded according to a pre-set scoring guide by multiple Examination Committee members who are blinded to the individual candidate identity. The passing score is determined using a procedure called "criterion-referencing". In a criterion-referenced test the decision about whether a given candidate passes or fails is based on whether he or she demonstrates criterion level job knowledge and skill on the examination rather than a predetermined percentage of the candidates taking the examination at that time. Difficulty judgements for the examination items are estimates of the probability that a minimally-qualified candidate will answer them correctly. In this context, a "minimally-qualified" candidate possesses just enough knowledge and skill to be achieve the Therapeutic Endorsement from the American Farrier's Association. Difficulty judgements are made by a mix of farriers and veterinarians serving on the Examination Committee. The time limit for this exam is 2 hours.

### 2. Shoe Display

A selection of ten (10) shoes made prior to the examination by the candidate will be presented. The selection of shoes in the shoe display will demonstrate a minimum of American Farrier's Association Certified Journeyman forging skill. Proficiency fabricating solutions for horses that require skills other than traditional hand forged shoes may be included with the shoe display. A variety of materials and methods of attachment to the hoof may be used. The intention with the shoe display is to demonstrate innovation as well as quality forging. Candidates will defend the shoe display to the examining panel after the presentation of the case reports.

### 3. Case Presentations

Two distinct case reports will be presented. Presentations will be limited to 15 minutes per case. A case report is a detailed report of the history, physical findings, diagnostic findings, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of an individual patient. Candidates are encouraged to use a variety of media to present each case. The American Farrier's Association will provide a digital projector, candidates should bring their own computer. A digital copy of each case must be submitted to the Chair of the Examination Committee forty five (45) days before the scheduled

exam. Each case report will be evaluated on knowledge, organization of material, presentation, treatment methods and communication skills.

#### **4. Forging Exam**

The forging exam will require candidates to forge and fit one shoe chosen by the Examination Committee from a list of shoes including but not limited to those found in Appendix A. The forging test will be completed in sixty (60) – ninety (90) minutes, depending on the shoe being required. The shoe will be fit to a template that will be provided by the Examiner. Guidelines set out in the American Farriers Association Certification Guide for shoe fit and forging on the Certified Journeyman Farrier forging test will be used.

#### **5. Oral Case-based Examination**

The oral case-based examination will require candidates to demonstrate an in-depth knowledge including definition, diagnosis, veterinary management of, and shoeing options for topics including but not limited to the topics listed in Appendix B. Candidates will be judged based on their critical thinking/reasoning, organization of information, and communication skills.

## EXAMINATION RULES

The integrity of the Therapeutic Endorsement examination of the American Farrier's Association will be maintained to ensure fairness to all candidates during testing. Any questions should be directed to Beth Daniels, AFA Executive Director, at 859-233-7411 or the Chair of the Examination Committee.

1. Candidates must be current Certified Journeyman Farrier members of the AFA.
2. Examination Fee: The fee for each attempt is \$150. AFA accepts checks drawn on a US bank and made payable to the AFA. Payment is non-refundable after the submission deadline and must be sent prior to December 1.
3. Candidates must be properly registered with the AFA and prepared to present a personal government issued photo identification card (e.g., driver's license or passport) at the test site.
4. Candidates must attend the examination at the appointed time. Late arrivals will not be admitted to the examination.
5. Giving or receiving assistance pertaining to the information on the examination prior to, during, or after the test period is unethical and will not be permitted.
6. The use of information aids or the recording of notes during the examination is not permitted.
7. Examination materials are not to leave the exam room.
8. No personal materials including but not limited to notes, books, cell phones, and cameras are allowed in the examination room.

## **AFA THERAPEUTIC ENDORSEMENT EXAMINATION READING LIST**

The following references and books are suggested reading for preparation for the 2016 Examination. Other textbooks and current references may be pertinent. Knowledge of basic and applied anatomy is assumed.

### **Selected Required Reading:**

1. Baxter, GM. (2011) Adams and Stashak's Lameness in Horses (6th Edition): Wiley.
2. Curtis, S. (2007) Corrective Farriery- A Textbook of Remedial Horseshoeing v. 1: R&W Publications.
3. Curtis, S. (2006) Corrective Farriery- A Textbook of Remedial Horseshoeing v. 2: R&W Publications.
4. Curtis, S. (1999) Farriery: Foal to Racehorse: R&W Publications.
5. Mansmann, RA., & Floyd, AE. (2007) Equine Podiatry: Elsevier Health Sciences.
6. Ross, MW., & Dyson, SJ. (2010) Diagnosis and Management of Lameness in the Horse (2nd edition): WB Saunders Co.

### **Selected Additional Reading:**

1. Back, W., & Clayton, HM. (2013) Equine Locomotion (2nd Edition): Saunders Ltd.
2. Butler, D., & Butler, J. (2004) The Principles of Horseshoeing III: Butler Pub & Tools.
3. Colles, C., & Ware, R. (2010) The Principles of Farriery: JA Allen.
4. Denoix, JM. (2000) The Equine Distal Limb: an Atlas of Clinical Anatomy and Comparative Imaging: CRC Press.
5. Gregory, C. (2011) Gregory's Textbook of Farriery: Heartland Horseshoeing School.
6. O'Grady, SE., & Parks AH. (2012) Veterinary Clinics of North America Equine Practice: Therapeutic Farriery 28:2. WB Saunders Co
7. O'Grady, SE. (2003) Veterinary Clinics of North America Equine Practice: Podiatry 19:2. WB Saunders Co
8. Pollitt, CC. (2000) Color Atlas of the Horse's Foot: Mosby- Year Book.
9. Pollitt, CC. (2010) Veterinary Clinics of North America Equine Practice: Advances in Laminitis Part 1 26:1. WB Saunders Co.
10. Pollitt, CC. (2010) Veterinary Clinics of North America Equine Practice: Advances in Laminitis Part 2 26:2. WB Saunders Co

Many Journals contain articles pertaining to farriery and should be used for current literature. A partial list of journals includes:

- Equine Veterinary Journal & Supplements
- Veterinary Clinics of North America (Equine Practice)

## **APPENDIX A: LIST OF HORSE SHOES**

- Various bar shoes
- Shoes to provide support
- Shoes to provide floatation on soft footing
- Shoes to affect break-over (e.g., rolled toe, rocker toe, half-round)
- Shoes to change angle of hoof on hard ground
- Roller motion shoes
- Wide web shoes
- Deep seated shoes
- Shoes for the treatment of bone disease
- Shoes for the treatment of soft tissue disease
- Shoes to limit gait faults

## APPENDIX B: TOPICS

- Laminitis
- Navicular Disease
- Collateral Ligament Desmitis
- Fractures of the Distal Phalanx
- Fractures of the Navicular Bone
- Infection of the Distal Phalanx
- Infection of the Navicular Bone and Bursa
- Infection of the Collateral Cartilage
- Ossification of the Collateral Cartilage
- Degenerative Joint Disease
- Flexor Tendon Injuries
- Suspensory Ligament Injuries
- Flexural Limb Deformities
- Rotational Limb Deformities
- Angular Limb Deformities
- Sub-solar Abscess
- Canker
- White Line Disease
- Keratoma
- Hoof Wall Cracks
- Hoof Wall Defects
- Hoof Wall Avulsions