



## Claw Length Measurement

When examining the claw of an average-size Holstein-Friesian cow, you need to start by measuring the length of the claw wall on the inner claw of the hind leg or the outer claw when trimming the front leg. This measuring is based on the Dutch method I have described in the 5 steps to trim a cow downloadable barn sheet.

To get an accurate measurement, you should start at the point where the hard horn begins and measure to the tip of the toe. You can use the Intra Claw Check tool to mark the anterior wall at 75 mm and make a vertical cut at the toe to the sole surface.



## Toe Thickness Measurement

You can reduce the sole thickness accordingly once the cut to the right length is made. The thickness of the Intra Claw Check is 5 mm, which is used to measure the sole thickness.

The average distance from the coronary band to the tip of the claw is around 82 mm, which is accomplished when measuring the 75 mm claw length and 5 mm sole thickness.



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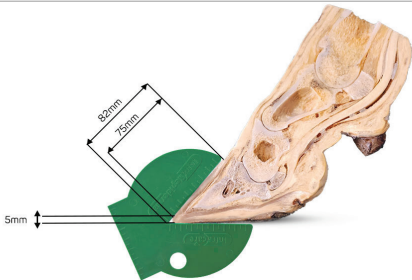




## Hoof Sole vs the Floor Check

Once the correct length of the claw is determined, it is time to trim the adjacent claw and match the claw length and heel height. To measure the balance between the claws effectively, use your Intra Claw Check tool and place it under the bottom part of the hoof, which is what we call the solar surface. This simple step helps you quickly notice if there's a mismatch in the lengths and heel height of the claws. The goal here is to make sure both claws share the weight evenly, allowing your animal to stand comfortably and naturally.

Both claws' soles should rest flat against the ground, ensuring even and correct contact and weight bearing, as it should be. I do want to add a warning in between here: avoid over-trimming. This can happen, for example, when trimming a rear foot and the inner claw is short or low on the heel. In that case, it's impossible to match up the outer claw because it will end up too thin.



## Hoof Angle Measurement

Control of the angle between the sole and anterior claw wall. The angle of the Intra Claw Check is set at 50°, allowing easy recognition of the acceptable variation of 45 - 50°. In my experience, keeping the heel height of the inner claw of the rear legs as high as possible is vital. Lowering that heel depth will put more pressure on the outer claw and cause potential problems, such as developing sole ulcers.

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