SA BOERPERD
TELERSGENOOTSKAP / BREEDERS' SOCIETY
The Ideal Sporting and Pleasure Horse

BREED STANDARD

Revised 2014 / Reset 2017

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The section dealing with CONFORMATION in this document is an abbreviated version of the subject and it is strongly recommended that various books on this subject be consulted to enhance existing knowledge and the understanding thereof. Recommended reading matter:

1. HORSE CONFORMATION HANDBOOK – HEATHER SMITH THOMAS
2. CONFORMATION EQUINE RESEARCH – JULIET HEDGE & DON WAGONER
3. PRACTICAL GUIDE TO LAMENESS IN A HORSE – TED. S. STASHAK

Part A
SA BOERPERD BREED STANDARD

1. GENERAL APPEARANCE

1.1 TYPE
Symmetrically finished
Balanced animal, alert, displaying full quality and regal in appearance
Hardy with good constitution that can thrive both on the veld and in the saddle

1.2 QUALITY
a. Superior skin and coat quality
b. Legs clean, dry with tendons clearly visible
c. Strong frame

1.3 HEIGHT
a. Stallions 14.2 hh and higher
b. Mares 13.3 hh and higher
1hh = 10.1 cm

1.4 COLOUR AND COAT COVER
a. Fine, but with dense good quality coat cover
b. Black, all shades of brown, chestnut, blue, yellow and dappled
c. Skin black and pigmented

1.5 TEMPERAMENT
a. Calm, ambitious, reliable, orderly but alert
b. Intelligent and willing to serve humanity

1.6 MOVEMENT
a. **Traditional:** Moderately higher movement with long buoyant strides that cover ground level
b. **Universal:** Moderately lower movement with long buoyant strides that cover ground level
c. Hind legs moving in such a way as to transfer weight from the front quarter to the hind quarter.
d. All four legs to move straight to the front when viewed from either the back or the front.

1.7 GAITS
a. **3-Gaited** (walk, canter and gallop)
b. **5-Gaited** (walk, canter, gallop, short gait and triple).
(Pacing is common for the breed)
c. Amble (a 6th gait: cross between a slow gait and a walk).

1.8 CARRIAGE
a. Balanced in all gaits
b. High and regal carriage

2. FOREQUARTER

2.1 HEAD

a. Front of the forehead is flat and wide between prominent eye brows with
b. Large, alert, shiny and clear eyes
c. Ears of medium length, sharply pointed and placed reasonably close together
d. Profile straight and somewhat concave with jaw deep and clearly defined
e. Well defined underneath the eyes up to the nose; nose bridge clean without any flesh
f. Large flexible nostrils
g. Strong mouth with wide, healthy teeth, perfect bit and deeply defined sides and soft and flexible lips
h. Prominent chin
i. Cheek bones wide with adequate space for the trachea
j. Dry head with skin around eyes, nose and mouth soft and velvety.

2.2 NECK

a. Nicely shaped, flexible and finely defined neck of medium length
b. Trachea dry, well defined with loose joint
c. At an angle from the top, high and smoothly coupled to the shoulders
d. Bent crest in stallions as well as mares, only more feminine
e. Neck to be longer at the top than the bottom

2.3 SHOULDER

a. Deep and coupled to the back at an acceptable angle
b. Well muscled and not fleshy
c. Prominent withers with sound muscling
d. In mature horses the withers must be higher than the croup. Measured from the point of the shoulder to where it is coupled with the neck the angle should be about 60 degrees with ground level.
e. Measured from the point of the shoulder to the centre of the highest point of the withers it should be about 43 degrees with ground level.
f. Measured from the point of the shoulder to where withers are joined to the back it should be about 40 degrees with ground level.

2.4 BREAST

a. Deep, in other words the horizontal breast floor must reach elbow level or lower.
b. Moderately wide with points of shoulders widely spaced and elbows parallel in relation to ribs.
c. Well developed breast muscling with prominent sternum or breast bone

2.5 ARM

a. Upper arms:

1. Upper arms short, facing the front
2. The bottom point of the upper arm (humerus) must be parallel to the ribs

b. Forearm:

1. Strong, long, wide and well muscled

2.6 KNEE

a. Wide, deep and flat at the front
b. Dry
c. Strong central coupling to cannon
d. Tendon anchors prominent and strong

2.7 CANNON BONE

a. Viewed from the side

1. Dry, short and wide

b. Viewed from the front

1. Dry, flat and in the very centre of the knee
2. Tendons prominent with strong coupling to knee and pastern when viewed from the side

2.8 FETLOCK JOINT

a. Strong, wide and dry
b. Very little pastern hair visible from the side

2.9 PASTERN

a. Medium length
b. Strong with an average of 50 to 55 ˚ in relation to ground level
c. Flexible

2.10 HOOVES

a. Medium size (mule type hoof)
b. Smooth and shiny with dense texture
c. Strong wall evident of hardiness
d. Hoof degrees average 55˚ at front and back hoofs
e. Hoof wall straight, not concave or arched
f. Heels high and widely spaced
g. Front hoofs rounded, back hoofs oval shaped
h. Sole concave and hard
i. Radius soft and flexible

2.11 FRONT LEGS

a. Viewed from the front the legs must be straight ie a perpendicular hanging from the point of the shoulder should hang in the centre of the knee, the cannon bone, the pastern joint and the hoof.
b. Front legs must be coupled as far as possible to the front of the shoulder
c. Viewed from the side the leg must be vertical

3. MID SECTION

3.1 BACK

a. Short, strong and muscled
b. Mares may be significantly longer in the back than stallions

3.2 RIBBS

a. The total rib section must be deep and oval shaped with ribs as far as possible to the back, right up to the flanks, strong (not cutting up into the groin)

3.3 LOINS AND FLANK

a. Loins wide and muscled firmly joined to the croup
b. Flank deep and full

4. HIND QUARTER

4.1 CROUP

a. Croup long and muscled from the from the hook bone to the pin bone
b. Viewed from the back it must be wide and rounded between the thurls with the hook bones not too prominent
c. Whilst the croup tends to hang the tail must be coupled reasonably high up
d. Side view should display a well rounded croup
e. Hips not too close together and the croup not too sharp towards the back

4.2 BUTTOCKS AND THIGHS

Heavily muscled reaching far down

4.3 GASKIN

a. Long, wide and well muscled
b. To reach as far down as possible towards the heel

4.4 HEEL

a. Wide and flat, clean and deep
b. Must speak of strength and be in balance with the horse
c. Prominent coupling

4.5 CANNON

a. Short, wide and clean when viewed from the side
b. Tendons clean equally thick at the top and the bottom
c. Cannon bone flat when viewed from the front

4.6 FETLOCK JOINT

See front fetlock joint

4.7 PASTERN

See front pastern.

4.8 BACK HOOFS

Oval shaped and balanced

4.9 HIND LEGS

a. Viewed from the back the perpendicular should hang straight down from the point of the pin bone over the point of the heel in the centre of the cannon bone, the fetlock joint and the hoof.
b. Viewed from the side the perpendicular hanging from the pin bone must hang just next to the heel and the cannon bone.

PART B: Conformation & Movement

REFERENCES

Practical guide to lameness in horses, 1995. Ted S. Stashak, DVM, MS
Die verhouding tussen konformasie en mankheid 2013, SA Boerperd Telersgenootskap
Soötegniese Data, 1979. Osterhoff DR, Couvaras S, Genis EC & Van Niekerk HP

1. INTRODUCTION

Conformation refers to the physical appearance and outline of the horse which is the product of the horse's bone and frame structure. When evaluating conformation the breed and purpose of the horse should be borne in mind i.e. the shorter and more round muscles of the Quarter horse as opposed to the longer and more flat muscles of the Thoroughbred. It is therefore essential that the evaluator should be au fait with the relevant breed standard and families within the breed.

2. VISUAL APPRAISAL OF A HORSE

View the horse from the left side (sun side) by evaluating the balance between the front and the hind quarter. Then focus on curves and relations on the top line from the poll to the tail and down to the gaskin or second gaskin. Then evaluate the coupling of the legs to the body and evaluate the coupling angles.

Viewing from the front is aimed at determining whether the legs and hoofs are straight and symmetrical. The depth and length of the breast and forearm muscles are viewed. The head, eyes, nostrils and ears as well as the teeth are evaluated.

Then evaluate the right side and compare it to the result for the left side.

Viewing from the back is for the purpose of seeing whether the back, croup, point of the hip, buttocks and legs are straight and symmetrical. Observation from the back must be done slowly from the poll to the tail – this is the best observation position for the back muscle, alignment of the spinal colon and left-right symmetry – if the horse is standing perfectly square. This is also the best position to observe the ribs.

The evaluator once again circles the horse stopping at each quadrant and observes the horse diagonally. From behind the horse, move to the left and observe the horse diagonally to the right. From this angle abnormalities in the legs and hoofs are visible, which is not the case when viewed from the side and front. Thereafter from left front to right back and from right front to left back. The circle is complete when observed from back right to front left. In between the general appearance of all four functional sections i.e. the head and neck, the front quarter, mid section and the hind quarter can be evaluated.

3. COMPONENTS OF CONFORMATION

3.1 BALANCE

A well balance horse moves far more effectively with less pressure and stress.

Balance refers to the relation between the fore and hind quarters, between the legs and the body and between the right and left sides of the body.

Should the forequarter be proportionately larger than the hind quarter ie conformation sloping to the front, it is the tendency then that the gravity point of the horse would move towards the front. Such a horse carries more weight on its front legs with increased shock, stress and lameness.

The withers of a balanced horse is as high or higher than the croup. Such a horse can carry more weight on its hindquarter with the result that he would display more balance, lighter and more free movement. The age of the horse should however be borne in mind. The top line of young horses may temporarily be out of balance as a result of the natural growth process. One could however be somewhat suspicious if a horse of two years should excessively slope towards the front or be excessively fleshy in the forequarter when compared to the hindquarter.

In a well balanced horse the length of legs (breast floor to ground level) is more or less equal to body depth (breast floor to highest point of withers). Proportionately shorter legs are associated with shorter steps.

The height of the horse (withers to ground level) should be about the same as the length of its body (point of shoulder to point of pin bone) . A horse with proportionately too long a body battles to synchronise and coordinate movements. A horse of which the legs are proportionately too long tend to forge, over reach (the back legs overlapping the front legs).

3.2 PROPORTIONS AND CURVES ON THE TOPLINE

The movement of a horse is influenced by the proportions of the components in the top line, the curve of the top line, the strength of the loins, the sharpness of the withers, the slope of the croup and the length of the bottom line in relation to the length of the back.

A golden rule is that the poll must be equal or longer than the back (withers to loin above last rib before the pelvis) and that the hip (loin to point of pin bone) should be approximately two thirds of the length of the back.

The top neckline (poll to withers) should be twice the bottom neckline (throat latch to breast.)

One must be able to see that a saddle will fit easily into the back of a horse with prominent and dry withers situated above or behind the *heart girth*. There should not be a prominent cavity in front of or behind the withers but should gradually flow into the neck and back. The withers serve as support for the back. When the horse lowers and stretches his neck the back lifts. Flat and fleshy withers limit this function. A horse with correct sloping shoulders normally has perfectly placed withers.

Not only do strong back muscles support the mid section of the horse, it also enables the horse to carry the rider with ease. The loins should be relatively short and well muscled. Very often horses have acceptable length in the back but their loins are too long and weak – such a back may even appear hollow.

The croup is measured from the limbo sacral joint (indicated by the upper peak and somewhat behind the hip joints) up to the root of the tail. The croup should be relatively long as it is associated with good length flowing to the hip.

It is desirable for the top line of the mid section to be shorter in relation to the bottom line as it in indicative of strength and lengthy steps.

3.3 HEAD

The length from the ear to the eye should be one third of the length from the ear to the nose. The width between the eyes should be the same as the length from ear to eye.

Prominent eye brows and eyes (with a calm and readable expression) on the sides of the head allow the horse to better see all round.

A wide open throat latch allows for proper breathing when the horse takes contact and bends in that area.

The muzzle must allow adequate space for the nostrils and incisors. The lips and incisors must fit perfectly and the cheek bones must accommodate the molars with ease. The profile of the nasal bone is mostly breed related and a matter of personal taste.

3.4 QUALITY

Quality refers to wide cannon bones, dry joints without any swelling, clearly defined and refined features, smooth muscling, body parts flowing into each other and a smooth and shine coat. Wide cannon bones (this bone is rather rounded) refer to well defined dry tendons clearly placed behind the cannon bone which, when viewed from the side, would give the impression that the cannon bone is wide.

3.5 SUBSTANCE

This refers to the thickness, depth\length and width of the bone, muscle and other fibre. Other components of substance are weight and height of the horse, size of the hoofs, depth of the heart girth and flank and spring of rib.

Spring of rib (best to observe from the back) refers to the curve of the rib cage. A well developed rib cage allowed sufficient space for the heart, lungs and digestive organs. It allows facilitates a natural and comfortable position for the rider's legs.

3.6 CORRECT ANGLES AND STRUCTURES

The length and slope of the shoulder, arm, lower arm, croup, hip, stifle and pasterns must be average and work well together. Straight limbs (viewed from the front and the back), large, dry joints, high quality hoof walls, concave soles, strong heels equal in length and hoofs of correct size are therefore important.

4. FRONT LEGS

When the horse is evaluated it is important first to ascertain that the horse is standing square.

The front legs carry about 65% of the weight of the horse and must therefore be strong and healthy. Both front legs must be of the same size and length and must carry an equal amount of weight.

A perpendicular from the point of the shoulder should cut the leg into two identical mirror images. Toes must point to the front and the length between the mid lines of the front legs at the breast should be the same as the length between the mid li of the two hoofs on the ground. Strong muscling of the shoulder, breast and lower arm facilitate sound movement of the front legs.

Viewed from the side the angles of the front legs should be average to absorb sufficient shock. The shoulder degrees are measured along the *spine of the scapula,* from the point of the withers to the point of the shoulder. The more upright and shorter the shoulder the shorter and faster the tread with more pressure, stress and shock on the limb.

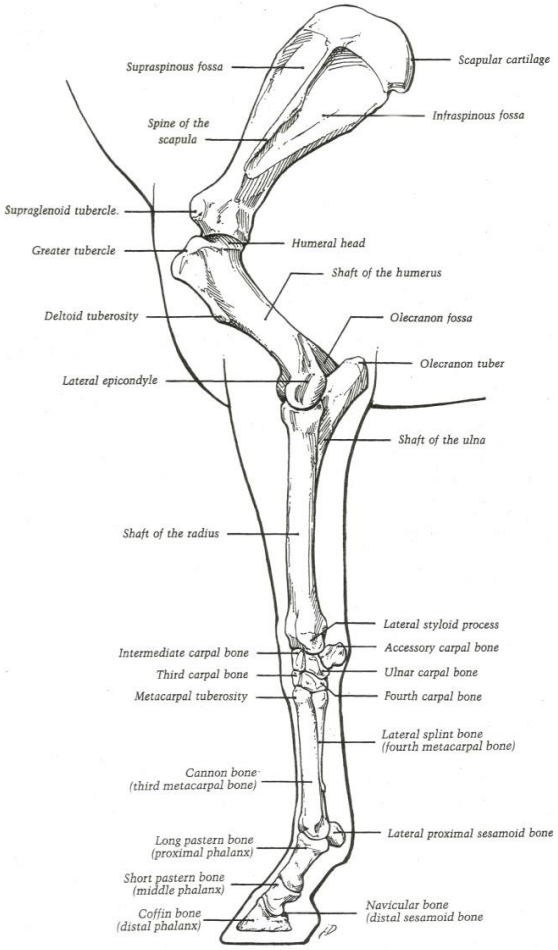
The angle of the shoulder with the humerus must be about 90º . The shoulder and the pastern should be parallel.

A long humerus (point of the shoulder to the point of the elbow) is associated with long strides and good lateral ability. The more upright the humerus the higher the knee action and vice versa.

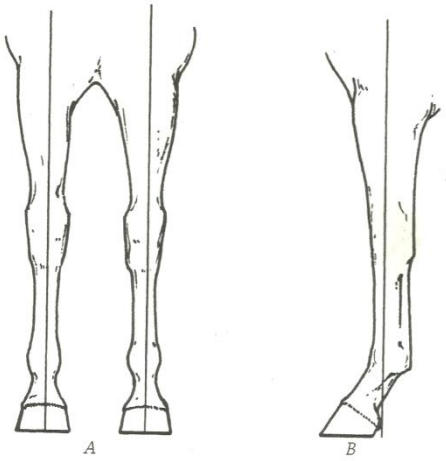
Viewed from the front the perpendicular from the points of the shoulder should not only cut the leg into two identical mirror images but also the point of the elbow (if one should be able to see through the horse) . Then the two front legs have the best chance to be straight and move correctly in flight. Should the two points of the elbows be further apart (outside of the two perpendicular lines) the horse might be toe-in with loose elbows. He might then also have paddle hoofs. Should the elbows be closer together (within the two perpendicular lines) the horse will probably be toe-out moving with stiff elbows and winging hoofs.

Knees must be large and dry (without any swelling) and the leg column straight (no calf or goats knees). Normal angle for front pastern is **53º tot 58º**. Too long, flat and loose pasterns can cause all sorts of injuries. Should the pasterns be too upright it could cause concussion injuries. Fetlock joints must be dry and large enough to facilitate freedom of movement.

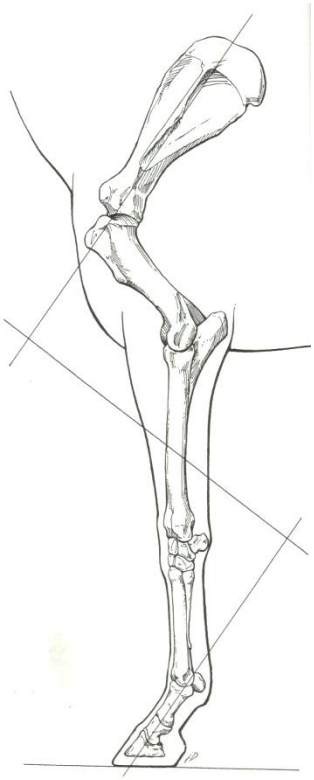
The size of the hoof should be in relation to the size of the horse, must have the correct shape (round to oval in SA Boerperd), symmetrical, good quality hoof wall, adequate height of heel and width with concave sole.



Frame of front leg



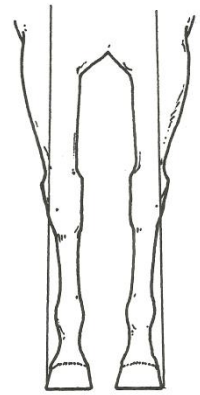
Correct front and side view



Front leg slop

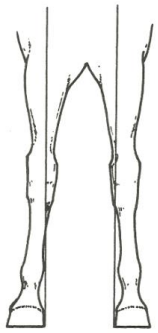
5. FRONT LEG CONFORMATION FAULTS

5.1 BASE-NARROW



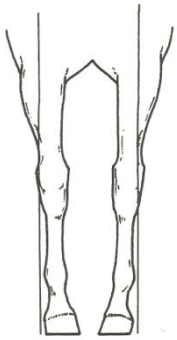
Viewed from the front the length of the centre line of the legs at ground level is shorter than the length between the centre lines of the legs where it is joined to the breast, especially in wide breasted horses with *well developed breast muscles (Quarter horses). Presents as pigeon-toed or splay-footed conformation.*
More weight is carried on the outside of the hoofs and the hoof touches the ground first on the outside. More stress to the outside of the hoof and leg.
Result: *Swelling on the fetlock joints and articular windpuffs/windgalls, ringbone and side bone.*

5.2 BASE-WIDE



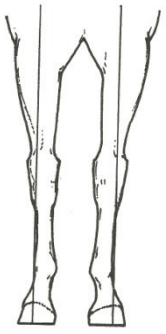
Viewed front the length of the centre line of the legs at ground level is longer than the length between the centre lines of the legs where it is joined to the breast, especially in narrow breasted horses with under developed breast muscles. Presents mostly as splay footed conformation. Wide base, toe to the outside causes the flight of the hoof to be to the inside. More weight is carried on the inside of the hoof and the hoof touches the ground first on the inside. More stress to the inside of the hoof and leg.
Result: Swelling of the fetlock joint as well as the medial ring and side bone

5.3 PIGEON-TOED



Viewed from the front the hoofs seem turned in. This is genetic and the leg might even start turning in as high up as where it is joined to the breast or as low as the fetlock joint. It normally presents in narrow base conformation and very seldom in wide base conformation. In flight the hoofs turn to the outside (paddle) in both narrow and wide base. The hoof breaks over the outside toe and lands on the outside wall. Where the leg turns to the inside only at the fetlock joint or lower, the flight of leg could be to the inside instead of to the outside and the other fetlock joint might also be affected in narrow base conformation. In geldings and foals this can be controlled or partly rectified.

5.4 SPLAY-FOOTED

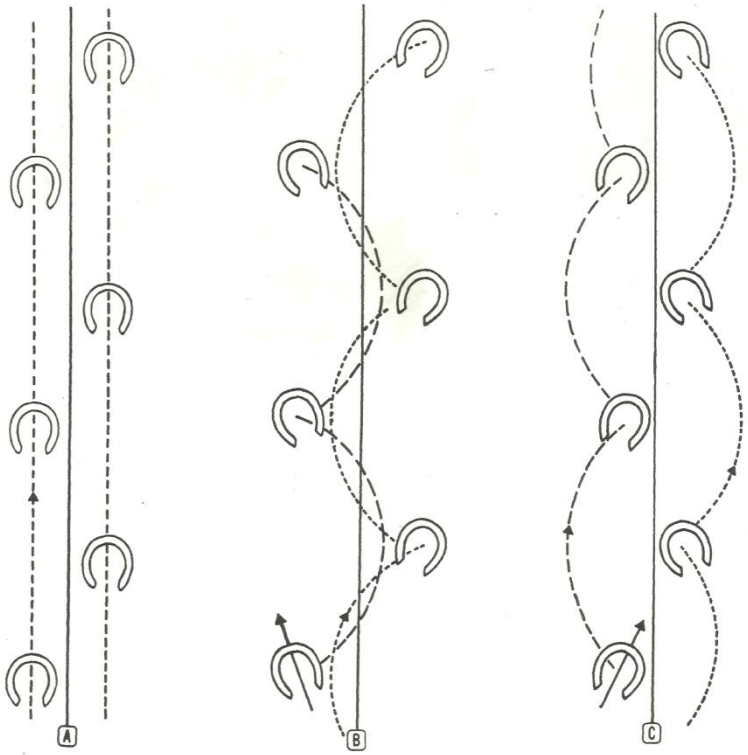


Viewed from the front the hoofs turn away from, each other. In most cases this is genetic with the leg already turning to the outside where it is joined to the breast. This condition is sometimes worsened when the fetlock joint also turns to the outside. Both wide base and narrow base may present with toes turned to the outside. The flight of the hoof is to the inside (winging) and worst case scenario, especially in narrow base cases, the other front leg may be hit.
In geldings and foals it may be controlled or partly rectified.

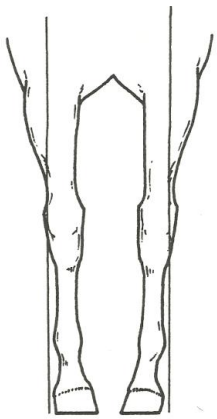
A. Normal spoor

B. Toe out spoor
Flight to the inside
"winging"

C. Toe in spoor
Flight to the outside
"paddling"

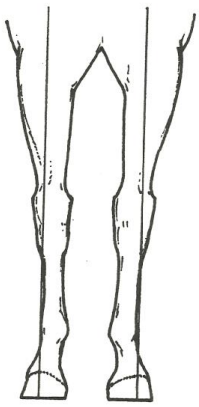


5.5 BASE-NARROW, TOE-IN



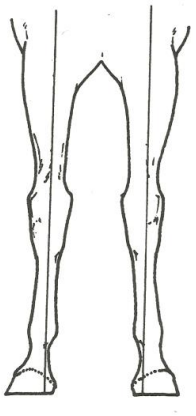
This type of conformation places much stress on the lateral ligaments of the fetlock and pastern joints. Too much weight is placed on the outside of the hoof which may cause articular windpuffs/windgalls, ringbone and side bone. The front legs do not touch and the flight of the hoof is to the outside. This is a common conformation abnormality.

5.6 BASE-NARROW, TOE-OUT



This may well be the worst front leg conformational fault and no horse with such legs can be expected to work. The flight of the front legs is to the inside with often injuries to the inside of the cannon bones, possible fractures of the medial shin bone and medial sesamoid bone. This type of conformation places the weight on the outside edge of the hoof, the hoof breaking over the inside edge, in flight it turns to the inside and lands on the outside edge again. This puts stress on the leg underneath the fetlock joint and *plaiting* may occur.

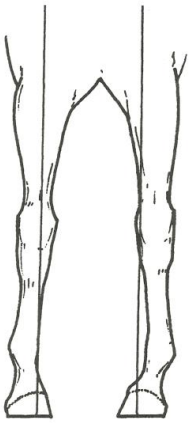
5.7 BASE-WIDE, TOE-OUT



Most wide based horses are also toe out which places a lot of stress on the inside of the leg. This result is more stress on the inside ligaments of the pastern and fetlock joints. In flight the hoof breaks over the inside, winging occurs and the horse lands first on the inside edge.

As a result of the front legs possibly hitting each other, scars may occur on the inside of the cannon bones and possible fractures of the medial shin bone and medial sesamoïd bone may occur.

5.8 BASE-WIDE, TOE-IN

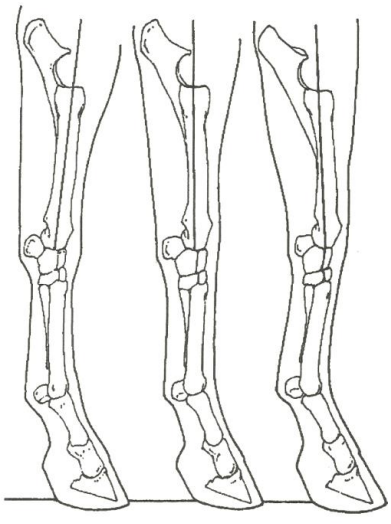


This type of conformation is scarce. The wide base tendency places stress on the inside leg with the same pathological results and changes as with the wide based, toe out conformation type. In most cases of wide base, toe in the flight of the hoof will be to the outside (paddle) and the hoof will break over the inside toe and land.

PLAITING

Some horses especially those with narrow base, toe out conformation tend to put one hoof directly in front of the following. That is undesirable and may cause the front legs to touch or hit resulting in stumbling van injuries.

5.9 BACK AT THE KNEE, CALF KNEES



Calf knee Normal Buck knee

Viewed from the side the knee joint bends to the back. This is a sign of poor conformation and the legs cannot stay healthy especially when the horse is worked very hard. Splint fractures of the small knee bones and radius may occur.

5.10 OVER AT THE KNEE, BUCKED KNEES (See diagram above)

Viewed from the side the knee joint bends to the front. Although the horse may be prone to less injuries with bucked knees it is more dangerous for the rider because the knees are already somewhat folded which could cause the horse to fall. Foals are sometimes born with bucked knees but should recover completely within three months.

5.11 BOWLEGS

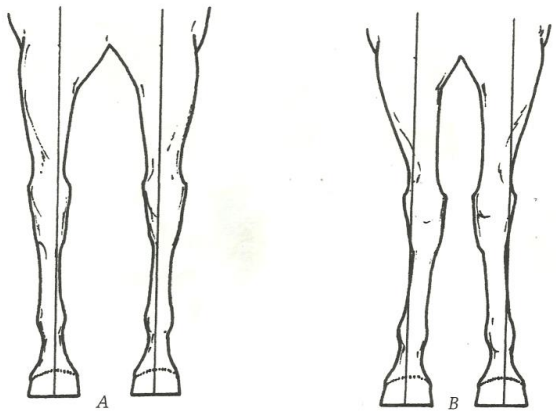


Diagram A

Viewed from the front is the diversion of the knees from the perpendicular to the outside. This may present in narrow base, toe in conformation. Stress is placed on the lateral surface of the legs, especially the knee ligaments. Also increased pressure on the inside of all joints, especially the knee joints .

A. Bowlegs
B. Knock-knees

5.12 KNOCK KNEES (See previous diagram B)

Viewed from the front the knees bend towards each forming an X. Pressure is placed on the inside ligaments of the knees and the knee bones on the outside of the knee. Normally the cannon bone, pastern and hoof will also turn to the outside.

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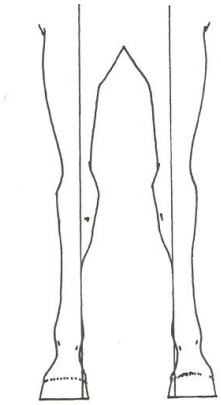
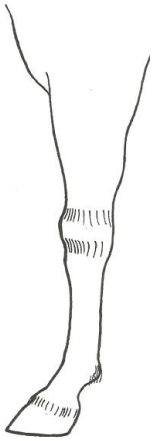
5.13 SET KNEES, BENCH KNEES



Viewed from the front it appears as though the cannon bone is placed to the outside not following the perpendicular from the radius (forearm). This is a genetic defect and regarded as poor conformation. The medial shin bone comes under pressure and splints are common.

5.14 OPEN KNEES



This normally presents in young horses (1-3 years). Viewed from the side it seems as though the profile of the knee joints are unsmooth and as though the joints had not closed properly. As the horse grows into maturity the appearance of the knee improves however.

5.15 CUT OUT UNDER THE KNEES

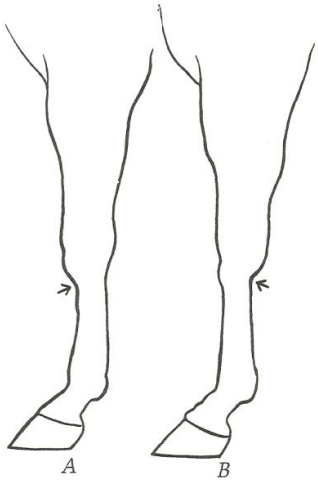


Diagram A
Viewed from the side there is a cut out directly under the knee at the front. This is poor conformation because the cannon bone is not in line with the knee.

A. Cut out under the knees
B. Tied- in knees

5.16 TIED-IN KNEES (See previous diagram B)

Viewed from the side it seems as though the flexor tendons, just underneath and behind the knee are placed too close to the cannon bone. It would seem as though this type of conformation inhibits freedom of movement. A heavy, hairy pastern may create the same impression.

5.17 STANDING UNDER IN FRONT

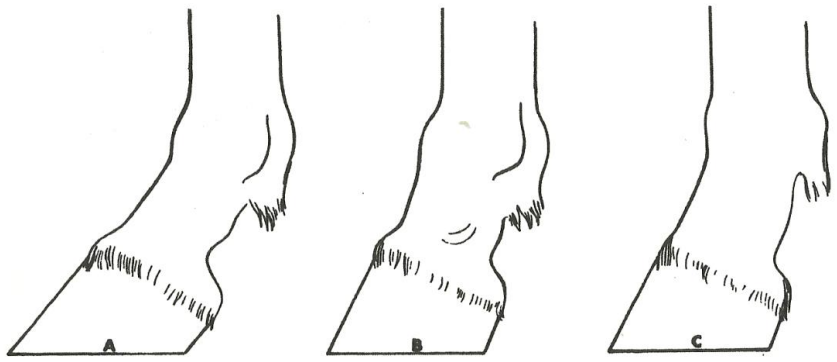
Diagram A
Viewed from the side all of the front leg from the elbow to the hoof, is behind the perpendicular and therefore under in front. This may be caused by illness and may not only be attributable to genetics. In this case the front legs carry too much weight and the steps will be short. Movement is inhibited and is short, choppy, low, floating and go hand in hand with stumbling and possible falls. Excessive pressure and friction occur on the legs, ligaments and tendons.

A. Standing under in front
B. Camped in front

5.18 CAMPED IN FRONT (See previous Diagram B)

Viewed from, the side the front legs are too far in front of the perpendicular. This may be due to bilateral navicular syndrome or laminitis.

5.19 SHORT UPRIGHT PASTERNS



A. Normal pastern B. Short and upright pastern C. Long and upright pastern

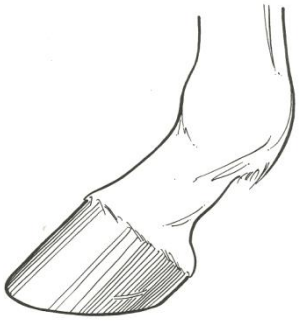
Diagram B (above)

A short upright pastern increases the concussion on the fetlock joint, pastern joint and navicular bone. The result is an increase in the traumatic arthritis of the fetlock joint, ring bone of the pastern joint and navicular syndrome. This type of conformation is associated with narrow base, toe in. An upright shoulder is normally also evidence thereof.

5.20 LONG UPRIGHT PASTERNS (See Diagram C above)

Very rarely does it present. Both the fetlock joint and navicular bone may be injured. The stress and injuries are more or less the same as that for short upright pasterns.

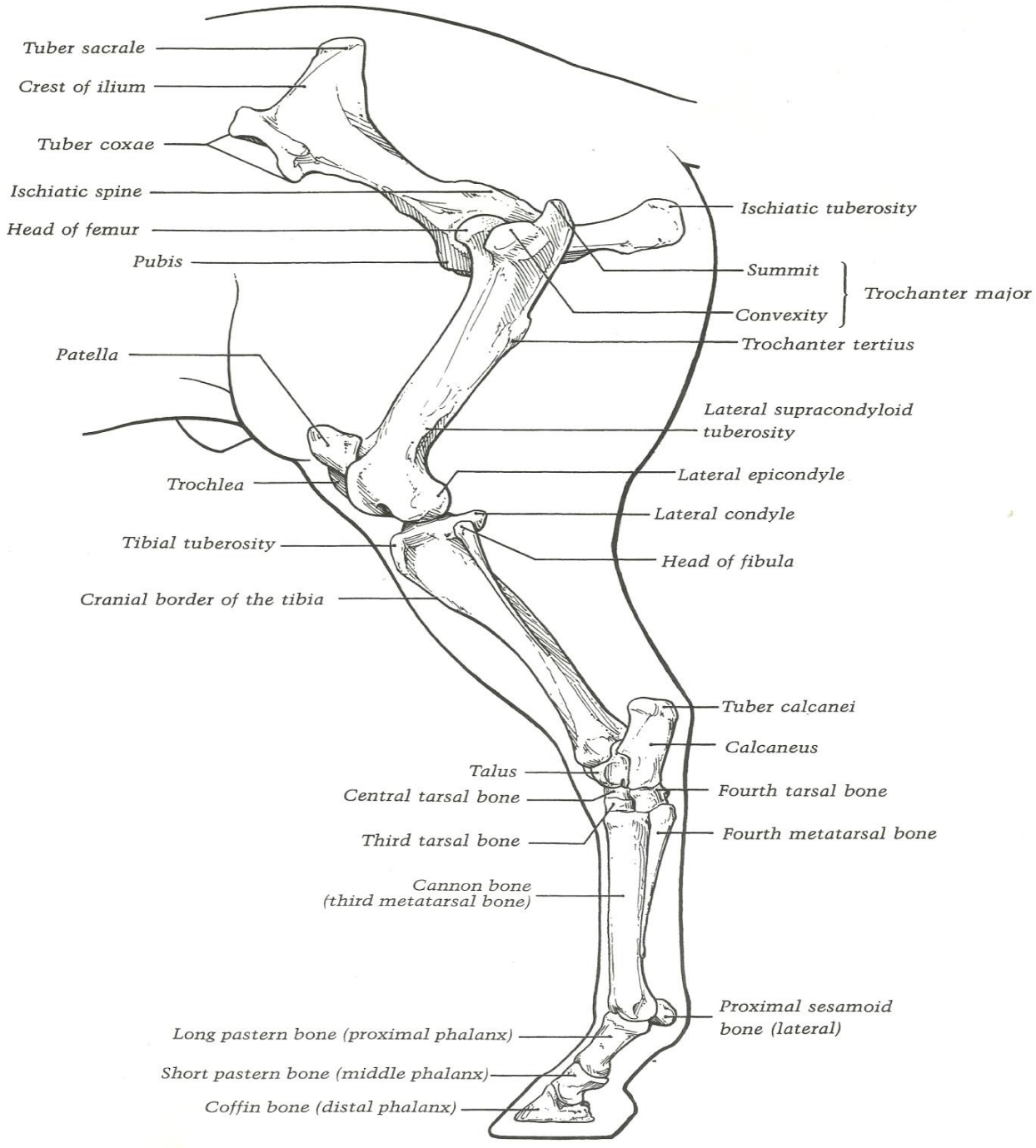
5.21 LONG SLOPING PASTERNS



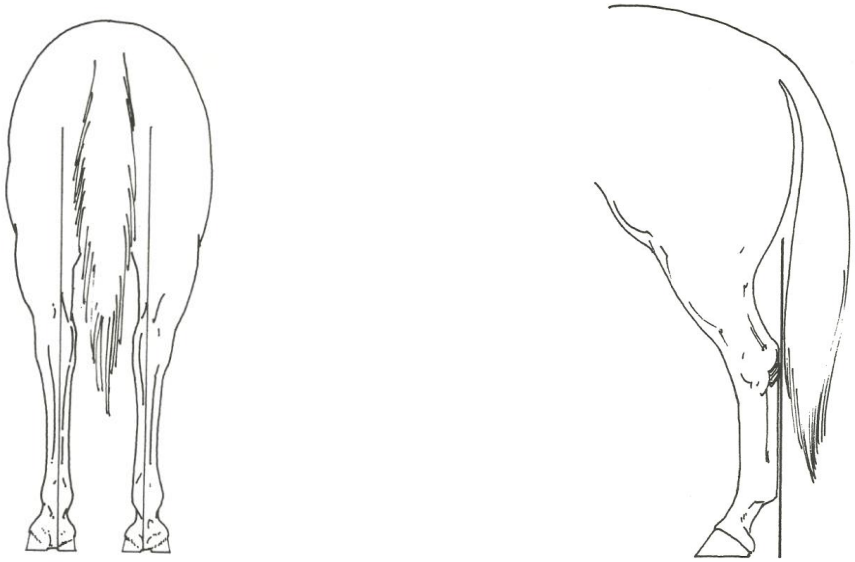
The pasterns are too long for the length of leg. May present with normal or too flat (45º or lower at the front and 50º or lower at the back) hoofs. This type of conformation may cause injuries to the flexor tendons, sesamoïd bones and the ligament at the back of the lower leg.

6. BACK LEGS

BACK LEG FRAME



CORRECT BACK AND SIDE VIEW



The structure and muscling of the hind quarter must suit the purpose for which the horse is used. Endurance ride horses for instance have long, flat buttock muscles whilst horses that are used to hoard livestock have shorter and thicker muscling. Multipurpose horses like the SA Boerperd have average muscling.

Viewed from the side the back leg should consist of slopes that seem as though it can effectively absorb shock. A perpendicular from the point of buttock must touch the heel and cannon bone as well as the ground at the back of the heel bulbs.

The hind quarter must symmetrically be joined to the body and legs. The ratio between the length of legs, the angles of the joints and height of the back legs provides an indication of the type of action and power output. A flat croup is associated with action that happens behind the hind quarter instead of there under (legs stay behind (*"trail").* A hanging croup *(goose rump) places the back leg too deep under the body ("sickle hocks")* with resultant structural problems (*"curb")* due to excessively bent joints. A short femur is indicative of short strides whilst a longer is of course indicative of longer strides. If the horse has high heels he battles to get his heels underneath him whilst lower heels makes it easier for the horse to carry itself. The gaskin (knee to heel) must be shorter than the femur. If the gaskin is longer than the thigh cow or sickle hocks may appear.

If back legs are too upright the total length of leg is shorter which results in movement effectively suited to race and hunting horses. Back legs with more bent joints have relatively longer length which produces more vertical joint action necessary for high dressage movements. Should the total leg be too long *camped out and sickle hogs may occur***.**

PLEASE NOTE: the final judging of limbs is done when horse is in motion, not stationary

Viewed from the back the back legs should be symmetrical and of equal length carry an equal amount of weight. The highest points of the croup, the points of the hips, pin bones and axis position of the tail must appear symmetrical. The widest part of the back quarter should be the line between the stifles. Back legs are not designed to point straight forward. The knee joints turn somewhat to the outside so that movement past the mid section may be executed. This results in the points of the heels turning somewhat to the inside and the hoofs to the outside (to the same degree).

The length between the axis of the back hoofs on the ground should be the same as the length between the axis of the legs at hip joint. The normal slope of the back pasterns is 55 to 60º.

7. BACK LEG CONFORMATION FAULTS

7.1 STANDING BEHIND

Standing behind

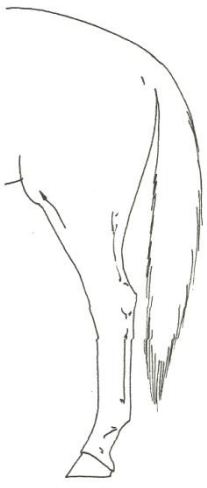
Viewed from the side the back leg is too far in underneath the horse. The perpendicular from the point of the pin bone will touch the ground far behind the leg

7.2 SICKLE HOCKS

Sickle hocks

Viewed from the side the angle of the heel is decreased so that the lower leg stands to the front underneath the body. Pressure is exerted on the plantar ligaments (at the back under the heel) which causes curb

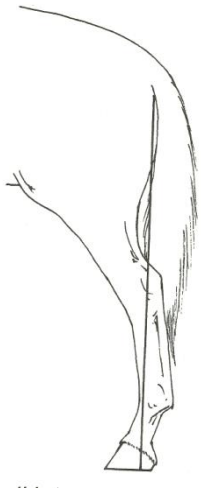
7.3 STRAIGHT BEHIND



Upright back legs

Viewed from the side the s*tifle joint,* between the femur and tibia, does not display sufficient slope with the result that the heel joint and pasterns are too upright as well. Such conformation causes bog spavin and locking stifle and this kind of leg is prone to injury when worked hard.

7.4 CAMPED BEHIND



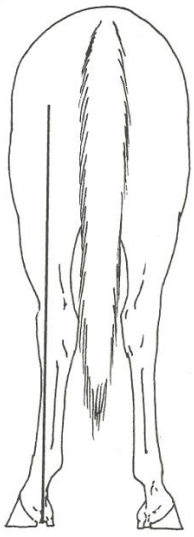
Camped behind

Viewed from the side all of the back leg is too far to the back. The perpendicular from the points of the pin bones touches the ground at the hoof instead of somewhat behind the heel. Upright pasterns are also common.

7.5 BASE-WIDE

Viewed from the back the length between the centre lines of the hoofs is longer than the length between the centre lines of the legs at the thigh area. This is less common in the back legs than in front. Mostly presents in conjunction with cow hocks.

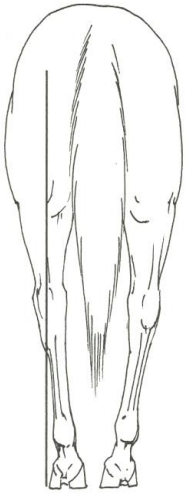
7.6 COW HOCKS



Cow hocks

The leg is base narrow at the heels and base wide from heel to ground. This is a common occurrence and is also one of the worst conformation faults because it could be indicative of *bone spavin, due to excessive pressure on the inside of the heel joint. Viewed from the side the horse may seem sickle hocked.*

7.7 BASE NARROW



Base narrow

From the back the length between the centre lines of the hoofs is shorter than the length between the centre lines of the legs in the thigh area. More common in heavily muscled horses. There is excessive pressure on the outside of the leg and most of the weight is carried on the outside edge of the back hoof.

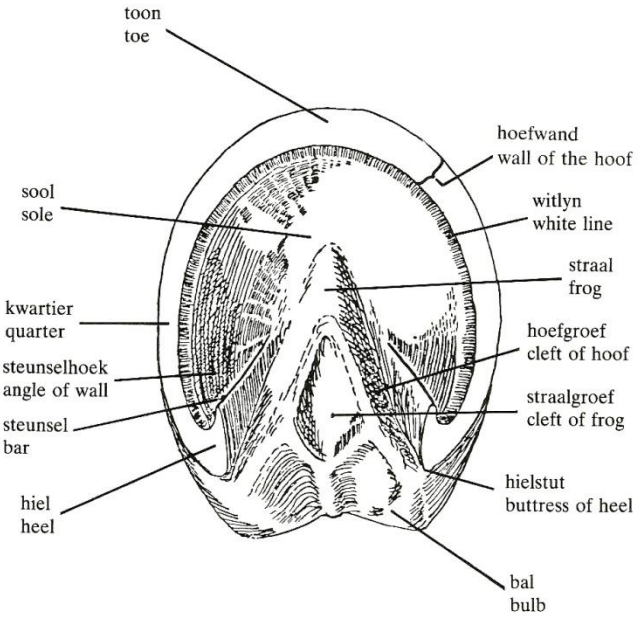
Hoofs may be straight or toe in. The leg may be straight up to the heels and from there turn to the inside.

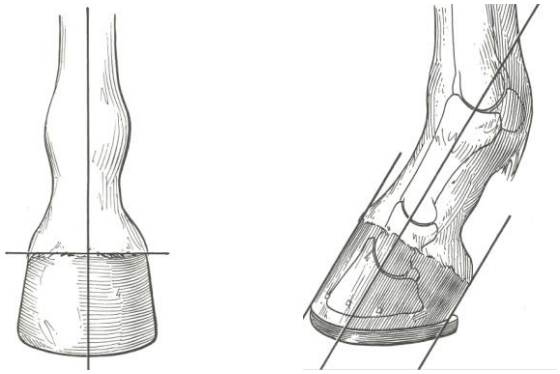
Also associated with bent back legs where the heels are placed too far apart. The heels then bend to the outside in motion. If a horse has good conformation of the front legs but is base narrow in the back legs, various forms of hitting of the front and back legs may occur.

7.8 BASE-NARROW FROM FETLOCKS DOWN

This type of conformation exerts pressure on the outside ligaments of the fetlock joint, pastern and pastern joint. The bones and tendons in that area are under pressure as well.

8. BOUVORM VAN DIE HOEF





Balanced hoof

Hoof structure

A hoof is well balanced if an imagery line drawn from, the c*oronet, front and back, is parallel with ground level and rectangular* (90º) with the perpendicular which from the point of the shoulder cuts the hoof in two identical mirror images.

The bars must be well developed and the wall is thickest at the toe becoming thinner at the heels. The hoof circumference at the crown is smaller as the circumference on ground level. The hoof wall on the inside (medial) should be more upright then on the outside (lateral). The soles are somewhat concave from the outside to the inside and do not make primary contact with the ground. They are also not created to carry weight. The slope of the heels at the front should be the same as the slope to the toe and the pastern slope.

Parallel toe. Pastern hoof and heel slopes
There should be no defects on the hoof wall and they must erode equally. The hoof should be indicative of the leg breaking over the middle of the toe and not on the sides.

Frog to be large and well developed with a distinctive cleft, be of normal composition and elastic. The frog should divide the hoof in two equal parts. An uneven division may point at base wide or base narrow composition.

8.1 FRONT HOOF
The front hoof is more rounded and the heels wider apart than the back hoofs. The pastern and heel slope are even and between 53º and 58º.

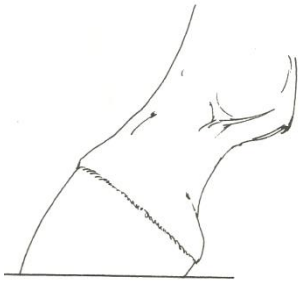
8.2 BACK HOOF
The back hoof is more pointed than the front. The hoof slope to be between 55º and 60º. The soles of the back hoofs are normally more concave than the front hoofs.

9. ABNORMAL CONFORMATION OF THE HOOF

9.1 FLAT FEET
The sole is not sufficiently concave. More common in heavy draught horses. May be hereditary and especially present in front hoofs. A horse with flat feet would rather land on his heels to avoid pressure on the soles. Bruised soles and limping are common. Only corrective shoeing provides a solution for this abnormality.

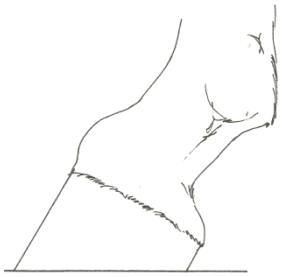
9.2 CONTRACTED FOOT, CONTRACTED HEELS
Bear in mind that certain breeds have more oval hoofs than rounded (SA Boerperd) and that it should not be mistaken for this condition. A narrow hoof is not necessarily contracted in the heel. In contracted heels the hoof is more narrow than normal for the breed to which the relevant horse belongs. It is mostly applicable to the back part of the hoof but primarily presents in one or either of the front hoofs.

9.3 UNILATERAL CONTRACTED FOOT
In certain horses only one heel may be contracted in the heels. Whilst it may be genetic it is unknown whether this condition is hereditary. Although it does not necessarily cause limping it should be regarded as undesirable.

9.4 BULL-NOSED FOOT


Elevated hoof wall

9.5 BUTTRESS FOOT



Swelling occur on the dorsal surface of the hoof wall at the crown of the hoof. May be the result of low ring bone or a fracture in the upper part of the coffin bone. Chronic deformation of the affected area of the hoof wall occurs.

Thickened crown of hoof

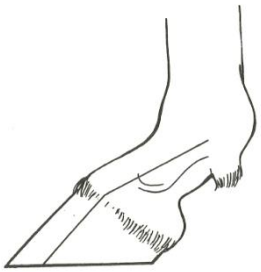
9.6 THIN HOOF WALL AND SOLE

Thin hoof walls and thin soles go together and are hereditary. Flat heels are more often than not also present.

9.7 CLUB FOOT

The slope of the front hoof is 60º or more. May be hereditary or a result of circumstances under which full use of the hoof was inhibited.

9.8 COON-FOOTED



The hoof slope is steeper than that of the pastern. So the slope from the pastern to ground level is interrupted at the crown of the hoof *(coronary band).* This may present at both the front and back legs and exerts pressure on the e flexor tendons, sesamoïd bones and distal sesamoïd ligaments.

10. INCORRECT MOVEMENT

10.1 FLIGHT OF HOOF TO THE OUTSIDE (PADDLING)

The flight of hoof is to the outside but normally lands within the normal spoor. Associated with toe in conformation.

10.2 FLIGHT OF THE HOOF TO THE INSIDE (WINGING)

The flight of hoof is to the inside but normally lands within the normal spoor. Associated with toe out conformation. This is undesirable due to injury to legs as a result of knocking on.

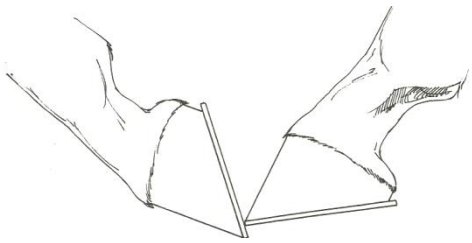
10.3 PLAITING

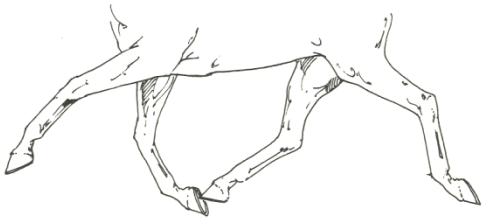
The horse places one hoof directly in front of the other. Associated with narrow base, toe out conformation. Could be dangerous as the horse may stumble and fall

10.4 INTERFERING

Two front or back legs knocking on when in motion. Associated with base narrow, toe out conformation and may be dangerous as the horse may stumble.

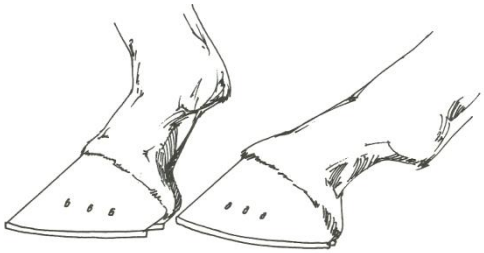
10.5 KNOCKING ON OF FRONT AND BACK LEGS ON THE SAME SIDE (FORGING)





The sole or iron of the front hoof is knocked by the toe of the back hoof on the same side. Associated with sickle hocks, horses with "short mid section long leg conformation", tired young horses, horses in poor condition, unbalanced shoeing, toes too long, time for new shoeing.

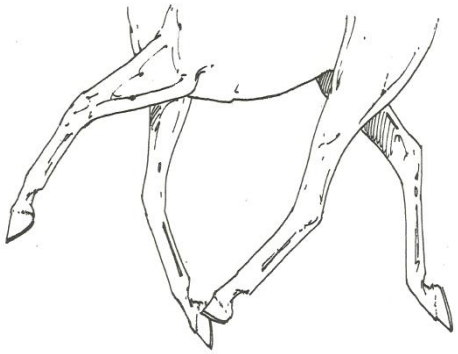
10.6 KNOCKING ON OF THE HEELS (OVER-REACHING)



The heel of the front hoof is hit by the back hoof on the same side before the front hoof even leaves the ground. Front hoofs breaking too slowly. Causes injury to heels and front irons are knock

(Over-reaching)

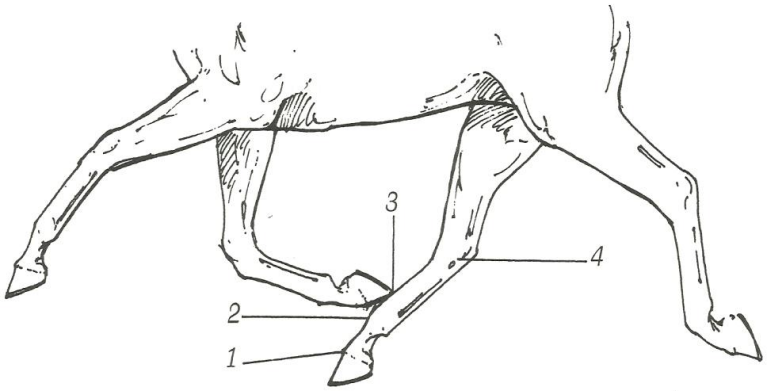
10.7 DIAGONAL OR CRISS-CROSS KNOCKING ON *(CROSS FIRING)*



Occurs in lateral gaits. The back leg hits the diagonal front leg.

(Cross firing)

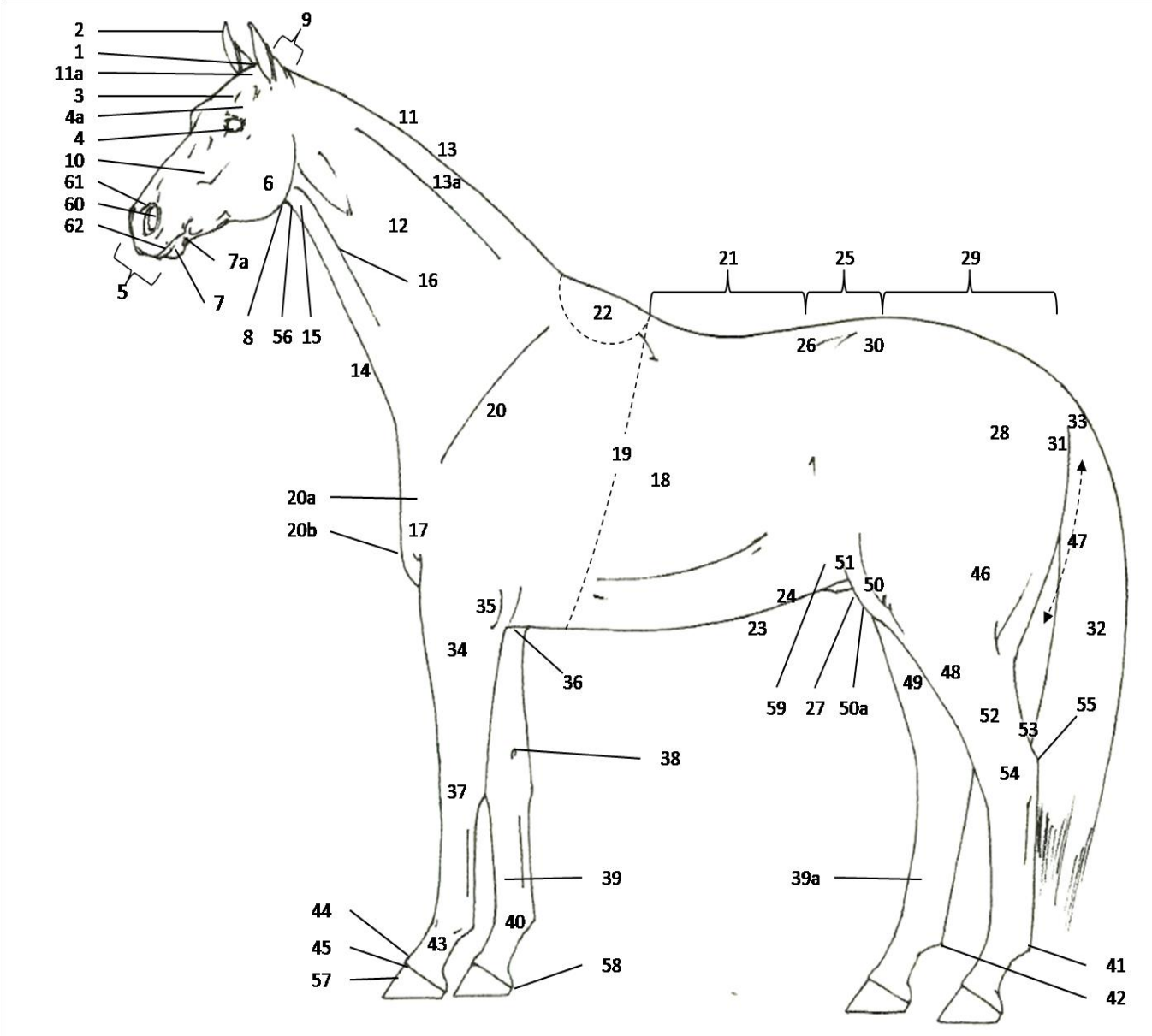
10.8 KNOCKING ON OF THE BACK LEG (HINDLIMB CONTACT)



Occurs when horse is trotting when the back legs bump against the front hoof in flight (on the same side):

1. "*Scalping*" – back leg crown of hoof is knocked on
2. "*Speedy cutting*" – Back leg fetlock joint is knocked on
3. "*Shin hitting*" - back leg, cannon bone is knocked on
4. "*Hock hitting*" – back leg, heel is knocked on

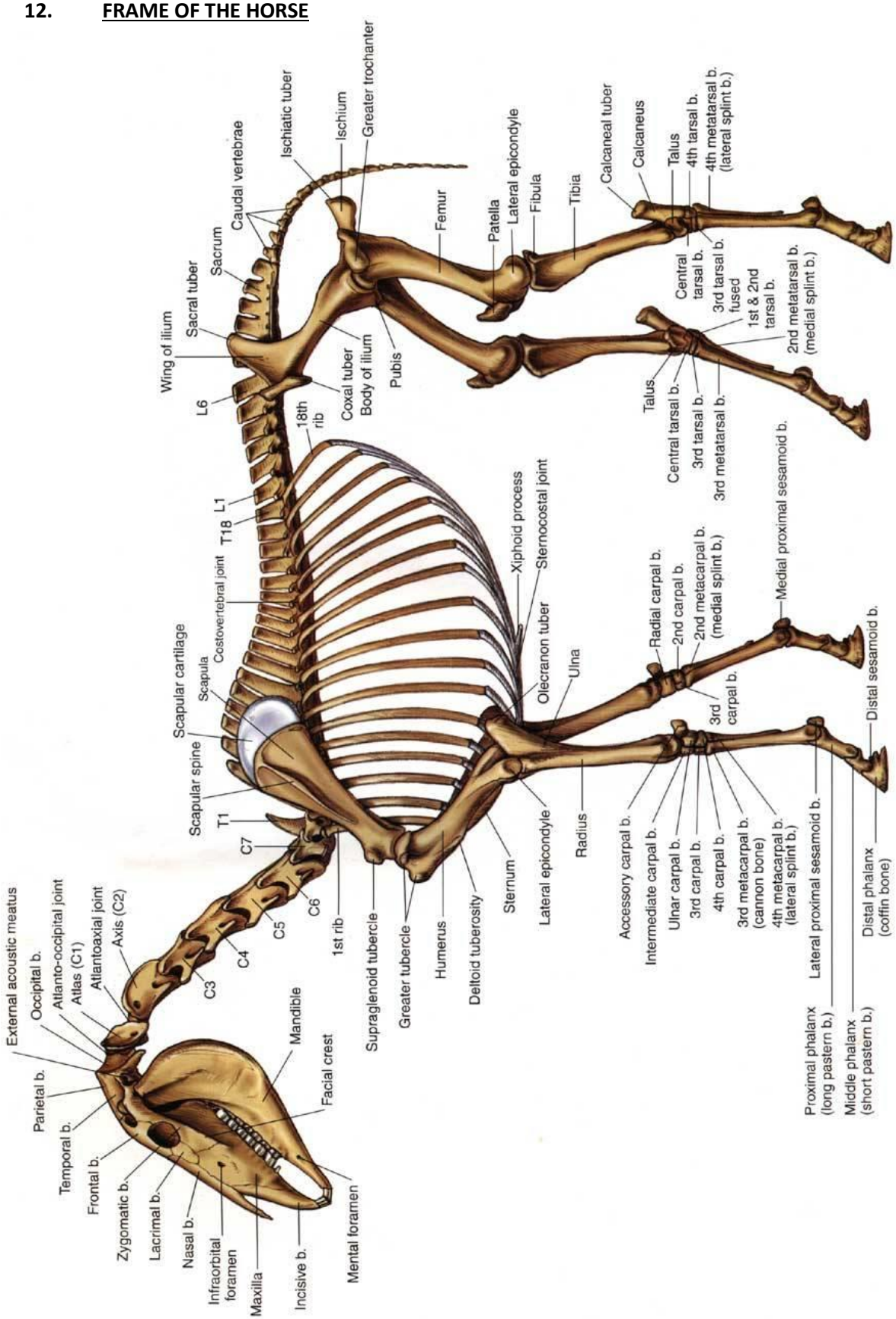
11. CONFORMATION TERMS



DESCRIPTION & TRANSLATION OF TERMINOLOGY

No.	*Afrikaans*	*English*	*No.*	*Afrikaans*	*English*
1	Kruin/kopkroon	Poll	30	Heup/heupknop	Hook bone/point of the hip
2	Oor	Ear	31	Sitbeen/sitbeenknop	Pin bone/point of the buttock
3	Voorkop	Forehead	32	Stert	Tail
4	Oog	Eye	33	Stertwortel	Root of the tail
4a	Jukboog	Zygomatic arch	34	Voorarm	Forearm
5	Neusspieël	Muzzle	35	Elmboog	Elbow
6	Wang	Cheek	36	Elmboogknop	Point of the elbow
7	Ken	Chin	37	Knie/voorknie	Knee
7a	Kenholte	Chingroove	38	Horingvrat	Chestnut
8	Keelgang	Channel	39	Voor-pypbeen/ -kanonbeen	Fore cannon
9	Hals	Region of poll	39a	Agter- pypbeen/-kanonbeen	Hind cannon/Shannon
10	Kaakboord	Facial crest/Cheekbone ridge	40	Kootgewrig	Fetlock joint
11	Maanhare	Mane	41	Muishare/pyphare	Feather
11a	Maantop/kuif	Forelock	42	Vethorinkie	Ergot
12	Nekvlak/kant van die nek	Side of the neck	43	Koot	Pastern
13	Boonste nekrand	Upper neck border	44	Kroongewrig	Pastern joint
13a	Manekam	Crest	45	Kroon	Coronet
14	Onder nekrand	Lower neck border	46	Dy/bo-dy	Thigh
15	Gorrel	Windpipe	47	Boud	Buttock/quarter
16	Nekaargroef	Neck vein groove/jugular groove	48	Buite-dy	Outer thigh
17	Bors	Breast	49	Binne-dy	Inner thigh
18	Borskas	Chest	50	Agterknie	Stifle
19	Hartomvang/gord	Girth/heart girth	50a	Knieskyf	Stifle cap
20	Skouer	Shoulder	51	Flankfou	Lower flank fold
20a	Punt/knop van die skouer	Point of shoulder	52	Skenkel/onder-dy/tweede dy	Gaskin/second thigh
20b	Boeg	Sternum	53	Haksening	Hamstring
21	Rug	Back	54	Spronggewrig/hak/sprong	Hock
22	Kambeen	Withers	55	Hakskeen	Point of the hock
23	Pens	Belly	56	Keeluitsnyding	Throat latch
24	Naat	Heave line	57	Hoef	Hoof
25	Lende	Loin	58	Hiel	Heel
26	Aansluiting	Coupling	59	Lies	Groin
27	Skede/koker	Sheath	60	Neusgat	Nostril
28	Draaibeen	Thurl	61	Neusvleuel	Wing of the nostril
29	Kruis	Croup	62	Bek/mond	Mouth

12. FRAME OF THE HORSE

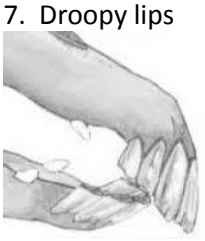


(Source: Soötegniese Data. Osterhoff, Couvaras, Genis & Van Niekerk)

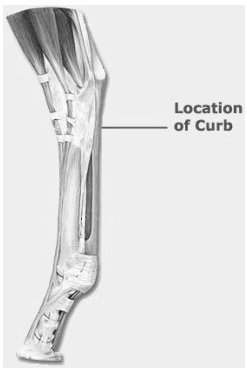
DESCRIPTION & TRANSLATION OF TERMINOLOGY

ENGLISH	AFRIKAANS	ANATOMICAL
Skull	skedel	cranium
facial bones	gesigsbene	ofsa faciei
Mandible	onderkaak	mandibule
vertebral column	werwelkolom	columna vertebralis
cervical vertebrae	nekwerwels	vertebrae cervicales
thoracic vertebrae	borswerwels	vertebrae thoracicae
lubbar vertebrae	lendewerwels	vertebrae lumbales
sacral vertebrae	kruiswerwels	vertebrae sacrales
Caudal vertebrae	stertwerwels	Vertebrae caudales
Axis	axis (draaier)	axis
Atlas	atlas (draer)	atlas
Thorax	borskas	thorax
Rib	Rib	os costale
sternum	borsbeen	sternum
bones of the forelimb	voorpootbene	ossa membri theracici
shoulder blade	skouerblad	scapula
humerus	bo-armbeen	humerus
Ulna	elmpyp	ulna
radius	speekbeen	radius
carpal bones	handwortel- / polsbene	ossa carpi
first carpal bone	eerste handwortelbeen	os carpale / os trapezium
metacarpus	middelvoet	metacarpus
splint bones	griffelbene	ossa metacarpalis ii & iv
digital bones	toonbene	ossa digitorum manus
pedal / coffin bone	hoef- / kloubeen	phalanx distalis / os ungulare
small pastern	kroonbeen	phalanx media / os coronale
large pastern	kootbeen	phalanx proximalis / os campedale
procimal sesamoids	naaste sesamoïd- / glybeentjies	ossa sesamoidea procimalia
bones of the hind limb	Agterpootbene	ossa membri pelvini
patella	Knieskyf	patelle
pelvis	Bekken	pelvis
femur	Dybeen	os femoris
fibula	kuitbeen	fibula
Tibia	skeenbeen	Tibia
tarsal bones	spronggewrigte	ossa tarsi
Metatarsus	middelvoet	Metatarsus
digital bones	toonbene	digitus iii

13. DISQUALIFICATIONS AND DISCRIMINATIONS

	DISQUALIFICATIONS	DISCRIMINATIONS
1.	**COLOUR** 1. Appaloosa 2. Cremello 3. *Paints – piebalds & skewbalds* 4. Loose white spots (only non visible spots on geldings and sterilised mares are allowed) 5. Blue eyes (one or both) 6. Blaze too large (not over the eyes, not past the ear line, not over the inside edge of the nostril, one nostril may be white but no higher than the corner of the mouth, at the bottom lip the white may not go further than the chin line) 7. White socks extending over mid knee and Heel	
2.	**GENITALS** Absent, poorly developed, abnormal genitals	
3.	**HEAD** 1. Short lower jaw *(Parrot mouth)* 2. Long lower jaw *(Sow mouth, monkey mouth)* 3. Long bottom lip 4. Skew mouth 5. Hereditary blindness 6. Droopy ears 7. Bent forehead 8. Bent nose *(Roman nose)* 9. Fleshy head 10. Sunken small eyes *(Pig's eyes)* 11. Small nostrils 12. Excessively white eyes *(Sclera)*	1. Rounded bottom jaw 2. Long head 3. Narrow forehead 4. Narrow bottom jaw 5. White eyes 6. Shallow mouth 7. Droopy lips  SHORT LOWER JAW *PARROT MOUTH (OVER BITE)*  LOWER JAW *MONKEY MOUTH OR SOW MOUTH (UNDER BITE)*
4.	**NECK** 1. Too short 2. Thick and fleshy 3. Neck joint to shoulder too low 4. *Heavy crest* 5. *Ewe neck* 6. *Swan neck*	1. Heavy crest 2. Short neck 3. Thin mane  EWE NECK  SWAN NECK

5. **5.1**	**FRONT BODY** **Shoulder Blade** 1.Too upright 2. Too short 3. Loose shoulder blades 4. Narrow points of shoulders	Upright shoulder blade
5.2	**Withers** Flat	Fleshy
5.3	**Breast** Too narrow	Narrow breast
5.4	**Front legs** 1. Legs too delicate 2. Excessive X-legs 3. Legs too round 4.Calf knees 5. Goats knee 6. Twisted elbow 7. Loose pasterns 8. Pasterns too short and upright 9. Pinched under the knee 10. Excessive bandy legs with hoofs turning to the inside (toe in) 11. Hoofs excessively turned to the outside (toe out) 12. Excessively asymmetrical cannon bones, joined off centre to the knee *(off-set knees)*	1. Goats knee 2. Round knee 3. Front arm too short (radius) 4. Cannon bone too long 5. Bent tendon 6. Short fetlock joint 7. Pasterns too delicate 8. Hoofs turning somewhat to the inside (toe in somewhat) 9. Somewhat hollow front legs (calf knees) in mares 10. Upper arm too long (humerus)
5.5	**Hooves** 1. Wide flat hooves 2. Poor hoof wall 3. Block hooves with pinched heels 4. Too short, flat heels	
6.	**MID SECTION** 1. Hollow back 2. Hunchback 3. Devils' grip 4. Poor rib sprung \ flat sided 5. Poor back\croup joining	1. Long back 2. Cutting high up in groin
7.	**HIND SECTION** 1. High roofy croup 2. Excessively short croup 3. Flat croup 4. Droopy croup 5.Poor buttock muscling	1. Short buttock muscle 2. High tail joint

7.1	**Hind Legs** 1. Excessive sickle hocks 2. Upright heels 3. Cow hocks 4.Loose pasterns 5. Long cannon bone 6. "Curb"*(Curbed hock)*	1. Somewhat cow hocked 2. Somewhat upright heels 3.Delicate pasterns 4. Short pasterns 5. Moderate *"Curb" (Curbed hock)*  "CURB" *(CURBED HOCK)*  POSITION OF A "CURB"
7.2	**Tail** Droopy tail	1. Coarse tail root 2. Prominent tail root 3. Thin and too little tail hair 4. Too little tail hair

14. UNSOUNDNESS AND BLEMISHES

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Unsoundness and Blemishes in horses, 2000. E Graves
Unsoundness and blemishes of horses: feet and legs. Loch W. en Bradley M.
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TERMINOLOGY

A usable, healthy horse has keen eye sight, breathes properly, uses his legs to the maximum and is mentally sound. Such a horse is free of any pathological defects. There are however very few horses that are just perfect without any deviations. When discrepancies occur in a horse it is necessary to distinguish between

S – *Blemishes (scars of injuries)*
G - *Unsoundness (genetically acquired deficiencies)*.

Blemishes are injuries (scars) or irregularities that influence the visual appearance of the horse but not his performance. Unsoundness (genetically hereditary or acquired) however inhibits the horse's performance, for instance limping. A blemish may also present as unsoundness depending on the severity thereof.

14.1 HEAD AND NECK

14.1.1 Blindness (G,S)
Part or total blindness in one or both eyes caused by a variety of conditions. Such a horse will be jerky and will require special care and understanding.

14.1.2 Cresty Neck (S)
Thickened crest as a result of fat deposit associated with laminitis.

14.1.3 Parrot Mouth (G)
The bottom jaw is shorter than the upper jaw – a genetic defect.

14.1.4 Monkey Mouth (G)
The bottom jaw is longer than the upper jaw – a genetic defect.

14.1.5 "Poll Evil" (G)
Inflammation between the ears, in the poll area which is normally the result of bruising.

14.1.6 Roaring (G)
A whistling or rattling sound when the horse breathes in, especially heard during exercise. This is caused by paralysis of the muscles of the vocal cords due to long term infection of the air passage. Surgery could be considered

14.1.7 Paralysis of the Lips (S)
Lips are sagging and lazy which is an untreatable condition. It makes it difficult for the horse to eat properly and requires increased maintenance.

14.2 WITHERS AND SHOULDERS

14.2.1 "Fistulous Withers" (Fistula) (G,S)
Infection or inflammation of the withers where an abscess has formed, normally as a result of an injury or bruising of the bursa. That is an abnormal opening from where an abscess drains and is described as a constant drain of the bursa as a result of inflammation or an infection.

14.2.2 Muscle Impaired Withers (*Sweeny*)(G)
This is atrophy or shortening of the shoulder muscles. In severe cases the shoulders may seem flat and the shoulder blades are clearly visible. This is caused by direct injury to the supra-scapula nerve that serves the shoulder muscles. Injuries may include a severe blow to the point of the shoulder or stretching of the nerve when the horse slips and the front leg is brought back suddenly and by force. This nerve does not recover by itself and an operation is necessary.

14.3 FRONT LEGS

14.3.1 Laminitis (Founder Or Lamintis) (G,S)
This is inflammation in the laminae of the hoof. Distinctive horizontal rings on the wall of the hoof are clearly visible and are more serious on the front hoofs. The horse may then be camped in front to alleviate pressure on the front legs. Laminitis may develop as a result of a too high energy intake, infection of the womb, over exertion on hard surface, etc.

14.3.2 Club Foot (G)

Abnormal upright hoof with high heel, short toe and short pastern. The slope of such a hoof is 60º or more and it may be genetic or as a result of circumstances inhibiting the full use of the hoof as a result of not being able to straighten the *coffin joint between the distal phalanx, middle phalanx and distal sesamoïd*. In severe cases it would not be safe to ride or to use the horse to pull a carriage.

14.3.3 "Bucked Shins" (G)

Inflammation on the front of the cannon bone seen as a painful swelling. The horse will rest the leg\s that are affected. It mostly presents in young horses that work hard and fast. It causes temporary limping and will recover if the horse is allowed sufficient rest.

14.3.4 Capped Elbow (S)

A soft or hard swelling on the point of the elbow as a result of sparse bedding, a kick, fall or when the back of the hoof iron rubs the elbow when the horse is lying down.

14.3.5 Bowed Tendon (G,S)

An enlargement of the tendons and ligaments behind the cannon bone as a result of excessive stretching of the tendon on account of stress or poor conformation such as long, hanging pasterns or toes that are too long. Whilst it can heal and the horse would be able to work once again the enlargement is permanent and the leg will never again be as strong as what it was prior to the injury. This mainly presents on the front legs.

14.3.6 Broken Knee (G)

A hard, bone like enlargement on the front of the knee due to an injury which is a serious defect that negatively influences the performance of the relevant horse.

14.3.7 Contracted Heels (S)

The heels are too close together and too upright, especially on the front legs. This is normally genetic but may also be the result of poor shoeing, laminitis (founder) or navicular syndrome

14.3.8 Heel Crack (G,S)

A deep crack in the heel area of the hoof, from the crown of the hoof to the bottom edge. Mostly causes limping as a result of poor hoof walls or injuries to the crown of the hoof which weakens the hoof wall. The lamina is affected and bleeds, pain and abscesses are common. With proper hoof care this may be avoided.

14.3.9 Sand Crack (S)

Superfluous cracks in the hoof wall. It may start at the crown of the hoof and stretch to the bottom, or vice versa and is attributable to a weak hoof wall, poor hoof care as well as alternating wet\dry conditions. The horse does not limp.

14.3.10 Quarter Crack (G,S)

Deep crack on the inside or outside quarter of the hoof, from the crown of the hoof to the bottom edge. It mostly causes limping, weak hoof walls, injuries to the crown of the hoof which weakens the wall of the hoof. It can be avoided with proper hoof care.

14.3.11 Scars With A Great Deal Of Fibrous Tissue – "Proudflesh" (S)

This may present on any body part. The effective and regular treatment of an open wound may reduce or eliminate proud flesh. The presence of white hair points to an old injury.

14.3.12 Mud Fever (G,S)

The skin behind the pastern and above the heels is affected. This may present in horses standing in wet conditions but may also be due to injuries (tick bites) in that area. It is painful and causes limping but with the correct treatment it heals quite fast.

14.3.13 Ringbone (G)

Hard, bony growths on one or more legs or joints of the pastern area. More common on the front legs and caused by injuries or poor conformation like short, upright pasterns. It may present as high or low ringbone; low ringbone always causes limping whilst high ringbone does not cause limping straight away. Both scenarios should however be treated as serious.

14.3.14 Splints (G,S)

Hard, bony growth, usually on the inside of the front cannon bone. It may present in any position on the splint bone as a result of stress, injury or weak conformation. After the initial limping stops there are no more side effects except where it is high enough to irritate the joint.

14.3.15 Corn (G,S)

Red marks on the hoof sole, normally towards the inside at the bars. In serious cases abscesses and limping may occur. There can be many causes but bruising, poor shoeing and contracted heels are the most common. Correct hoof care can prevent it and facilitate healing.

14.3.16 Navicular Syndrome (G,)

Degeneration of the navicular bone as a result of over exertion, shock, poor shoeing and poor conformation, small hoofs, upright pasterns and shoulders. Mostly presents at the front hoofs and is an irreversible condition. However sedation, corrective shoeing, an surgery can help relieve the pain and discomfort.

14.3.17 Sidebone (G,S)

The lateral cartilage just beneath the skin on the side of the heels serve as shock absorbers. When this lateral cartilage hardens it is called side bone. This new bone may be moved to the inside or outside with the fingers. The horse is then referred to as “hard in the heel”. It presents mostly on the front legs and then on the outside heels. A result of abuse (riding on hard surfaces) or direct injury and presents mostly in horses with poor leg conformation.

14.3.18 Toe Crack (G,S)

A deep crack in the toe area of the hoof that stretches from the crown of the hoof to the bottom edge of the hoof. May be prevented and avoided with proper hoof care.

14.3.19 Enlarged Sesamoids (G)

Hard growth on the back of the fetlock joint. This is a serious acquired defect which mostly causes limping.

14.3.20 Thrush (G,S)

A black, ill smelling discharge at the hoof due to wet and dirty conditions. An anaerobic condition for which treatment is essential.

14.3.21 Popped Knee, Water On The Knee, Jumpers Knee (G,S)

A soft swelling on the front of the knee, usually as a result of injury or shock (concussion).

14.3.22 Wind Galls, Wind Puffs, Road Puffs (S)

Soft swelling of the lower cannon bone and pastern as a result of working on hard surfaces as well as over exertion and unfit horses. Also present in old horses. Should not affect the horse’s performance.

14.4 BACK, SPINE AND ABDOMEN

14.4.1 Hernia (G)

This refers to an organ or body fibre protruding from the abdominal wall or another body opening as a result of an accident or undue pressure. There are two kinds or hernia ie those that heal by itself and those that do not in which case an operation would be necessary.

14.4.2 "Sway Back" (G,S)

The back is excessively hollow which is a hereditary or acquired defect . This condition prevents the horse to properly place his back legs underneath his body and the severity of the defect will dictate practical use of this horse.

14.4.3 Heaves (G)

The horse battles to breathe out as a result of the lungs having lost elasticity. This is mainly observed after exercise because the horse then forces its abdominal muscles to contract in order to breathe out. Chronic cough and heave line are typical of this condition. It is impossible for the horse to do heavy work as a result of the dusty and mouldy conditions around.

14.4.4 Cryptorchidism (G)

Only one or none of the testicles has dropped. Although it is commonly accepted that this condition is genetic the gene responsible for it has not yet been identified. A testicle that has not dropped does not produce any live sperm, but indeed testosterone. The fertility of the horse is therefore lower and it is safer to treat such a stallion as genetically hereditary than to disqualify it altogether.

The surgical removal of the testicles that had not dropped is risky and a very expensive procedure. Should the internal testical not be removed but only the one that did not drop the horse will still act like a stallion but the chances that cancer may develop in the remaining testicle are very likely.

14.4.5 Saddle Sores (S)

As a result of ill fitting saddles and girdles, broken and dirty saddles, no saddle cloth and poor girdles – treat immediately.

14.5 HIND QUARTER

14.5.1 Bone Spavin (G)

Hardening on the inside and lower front of the heel where the heel and cannon bone come together. As a result of incorrect heel conformation i.e. excessively upright back legs, cow hocks, sickle hocks or injury. Very often limping. A serious defect.

14.5.2 Bog Spavin, Idiopathic Synovitis (G,S)

Soft swelling (inflammation) in the natural cavity on the front and inside of the heel joint as a result of sprains, trauma (abrupt stopping and turning) or incorrect heel conformation (too upright heels, sickle hocks and cow hocks) and possibly nutritional imbalances. Long term discomfort is rare.

14.5.3 "Cocked Ankles" (G)

The fetlock joints are bent to the front. It may also sometimes present on the front legs. Excessively hard work causes inflammation and\or shortening of the tendons of the fetlock joints. In extreme cases the serviceability of the horse is limited due to the fetlock joints not being able to move freely.

14.5.4 Capped Hock (S)

Soft or hard swelling on the point of the heel which is attributable to insufficient bedding, kicking against the side of the wagon whilst in transit, etc.

14.5.5 Knocked Down Hip (S)

Hernia at the point of the hip (tuber coxae) which results in the point of the hip sagging. Best seen from the back. A direct bump (at narrow doors) kraals, transport wagons, slipping and falling, etc is the reason. The horse would seldom limp but it affects the appearance and value of the horse.

14.5.6 Curb (Curbed Hock) (G,S)

Enlargement of the ligament at the top behind the cannon bone underneath the heel (plantar ligament). As a result of injury or incorrect conformation (sickle or cow hocks) and may cause limping. The horse would however be able to work again once fully recovered.

14.5.7 Stringhalt (G)

An involuntary bent of the heel, upward and stocky like towards the abdomen. Both or only one leg may be affected. The real reason is unknown but disease of the nerves may be the culprit. The action intensifies when the horse turns or reverses. It also seems worse after the horse had rested – serious cases may be corrected surgically.

14.5.8. Crooked Tail (S)

The tail is not carried symmetrically which could be merely an acquired habit or as a result of pain (poor saddle or rider) or as a result of asymmetrical muscle tone of the muscle controlling the tail or of the back muscles.

14.5.9 Scars With A Great Deal Of Fibrous Tissue (S)

May present on any part of the body and the presence of white hair usually points at an old injury.

14.5.10 Stifled, Locking Stifle (G)

The patella moves and locks the knee joint in the stretched position. The knee may unlock by itself or physical manipulation may be necessary. More common with camped behind conditions and excessively upright back leg conformation as well as in young, poorly muscled horses or horses in poor condition. It is caused by the spraining of knee ligaments during knee locking and this condition may repeat many times. It may present in one or both back legs and may recover if the horse's condition and muscling improve. If not a surgical procedure could be done.

14.5.11 Splints (G,S)

In the back legs the splints present mostly on the inside of the cannon bones and the horse may limp temporarily.

14.5.12 Thoroughpin, Tynosynovitis (S)

A soft swelling in the cavity above the heel joint. It may be moved from one side of the heel to the other by hand. The cause is not known although conformational faults may be the reason. The swelling develops over a long period f time. Temporary solutions are available and normally the horse does not limp. Exercise helps to get the swelling down.

14. 6. DETRIMENTAL AND UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

14.6.1 Biting

Stallions have a way of biting their handlers to encourage them to do something. If stallions are handled too roughly or when the girdle is suddenly jerked tight they are encouraged to bite. Show horses acquire this behaviour when too many people touch and rub them whilst they are in the stable at a show. Remove the cause.

14.6.2 Halter Pulling

The horse realises he is stronger than the halter rope that inhibits his movement. Rather ensure that young horses do not get the wrong message..

14.6.3 Cribbing, Crib Biting

These horses bite non metal, for instance wood objects, with their cutting teeth and gradually erode it. This compulsive behaviour may go hand in hand with wind sucking. The teeth erode to such a degree that the horse can hardly graze on grass. Boredom, frustration and\or fear may induce this stressful reaction. Address it - it is very difficult to eliminate once it starts.

14.6.4 Stall Walking

This causes the horse to lose condition and be tired.

14.6.5 Kicking

Such horses cause damage in the stable and injury to its back legs (curbed hock). Hoof irons also get it – they vent their impatience at feeding time or just demand attention. It starts as natural horse behaviour but has the potential to develop into obsessive behaviour. They don't normally kick when outside the stable.

14.6.6 Tail Rubbing

This starts as a result of parasites (ticks) and is then just proceeded with – parasite control and tail boards eliminate tail rubbing.

14.6.7 Weaving

A rhythmical movement of the weight from one front hoof to the other. The joints become stressed, hoofs may erode and the stable floor may be damaged. The cause is possible stress due to boredom or loneliness especially in a cramped space. Improve management by allowing for more grazing time, company and a stainless steel mirror in the stable, etc.

14.6.8 "Wind Sucking"

Such a horse would identify an object on which he would bite with his upper teeth while he draws back and breathes in. Such compulsive behaviour normally presents in conjunction with a groan. This may happen during feeding with the result that the horse's feed intake decreases. Even objects in their camps are identified for this procedure and they even do it when standing with halter and reigns

It is detrimental for teeth and general condition. Potential buyers may very well lose interest. It also causes ulcers, colic, etc. Other horses may follow suit. Boredom, frustration or fear may be the cause for exhibiting this behaviour and should be addressed. The habit dies very hard.

Translated from the original Afrikaans
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