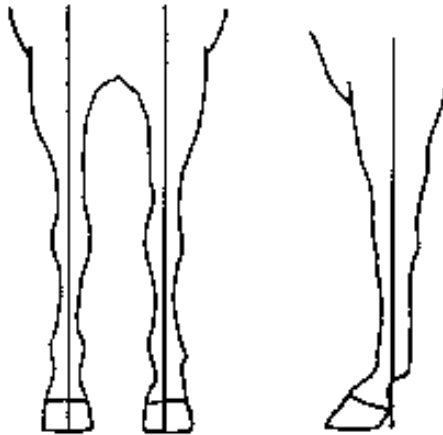


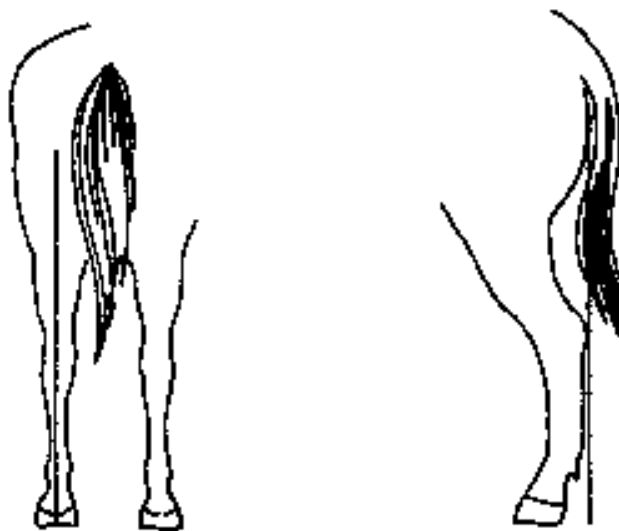
General Structure of the Forelimbs

The Forelimbs	
Forearm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long with well-defined muscling that ties in close to the knee. • Large at the top of the forearm and tapers as it approaches the knee. • Draft and stock type horses will have more volume of muscle in the forearm when compared to the hunter, saddle and pony types.
Knee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large, flat and clean-cut.
Cannon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorter than the forearm and is wide with well-defined tendons along the back of the cannon when viewed from the side.
Pastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an ideal angle of 45 degrees.
Hoof	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an ideal angle of 45 degrees. • Should be durable and of appropriate size for the horse.



The Hindlimbs

The Hindlimbs	
Side View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A plumb line dropped from the point of the buttock should pass along the back of the hock, cannon and fetlock, and strike the ground 7.5 to 10 cm (3-4 inches) behind the heel.
Rear View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A plumb line dropped from the point of the buttock should pass through the center of the hock, cannon, fetlock, pastern and hoof. The feet should be as far apart at the ground as they are at the hock.



General Structure of the Hindlimbs

The Hindlimbs	
Hock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is large, deep, wide, clean and well-defined.
Cannon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is shorter than the distance from the stifle to the hock. Is wide with well-defined tendons along the back of the cannon when viewed from the side.
Pastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has an ideal angle of 45-50 degrees.
Hoof	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be durable and of appropriate size for the horse.

Head

From the Front	
Shape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is triangular with wide set eyes, tapering to a reasonably sized muzzle.
Eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are large and set out on the sides of the head.
Nostrils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are large and flaring.
Ears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are clean cut and in proportion to the size of the head.
From the Side	
Shape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is triangular and deep from the poll to the jaw, tapering to a reasonable size muzzle. Bridge of nose may be straight or slightly dished. Throatlatch is clean and free from excess fat.



Good



Poor

Body

Neck	
Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long from the poll to the withers.
Shape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean and trim, arching from poll to withers.
Set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High and smooth into the top of the withers and high into the chest above the point of the shoulder.
Withers	
Shape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long, tying smoothly into the back, and high enough to hold the saddle on securely.
Shoulder	
Angle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length and angle of shoulder are long, and sloping about 45 degrees to aid in shock absorption.
Chest and Ribs (Barrel)	
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chest is deep and wide when viewed from the front. The ribs are well-sprung and deep. This conformation provides room for the maximum function of the heart and lungs.



Good



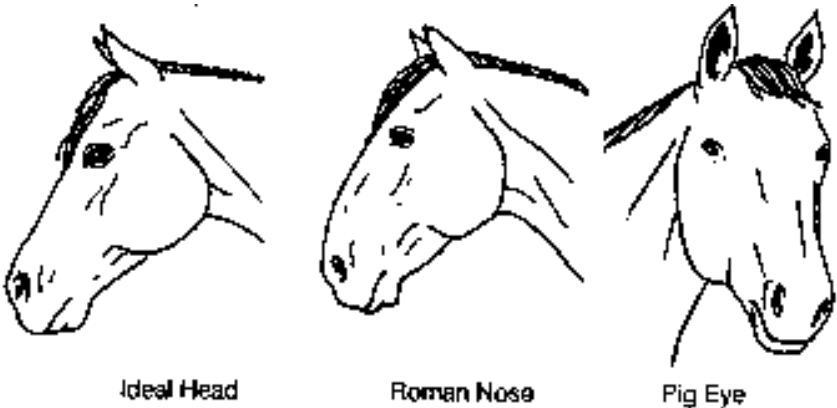
Poor

Back and Loin (Coupling)	
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is short and wide over the top. • Is well-muscled. • The only skeletal support in the loin is provided by the spinal column. Therefore, adequate muscling is necessary for additional strength. Inadequate muscling and a long coupling often result in a sagging, weak top line, often referred to as a swayback.
Hip and Croup	
Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is long and well-muscled.
Shape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The point of the croup is directly over the point of the hip. • Croup should slope gently to the tail head.
Hindquarters From the Side	
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hindquarters are deep and well-muscled.
Hindquarters From the Rear	
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hindquarters are deep and well-muscled. • Muscle volume, length and definition depend on body type. • Both the inside and outside of the legs should be well-muscled. • The gaskin muscle should tie high into the stifle and deep into the hock.
Shape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is well-rounded over the croup. • The width at the stifle should be at least as great as the width at the point of the hip.

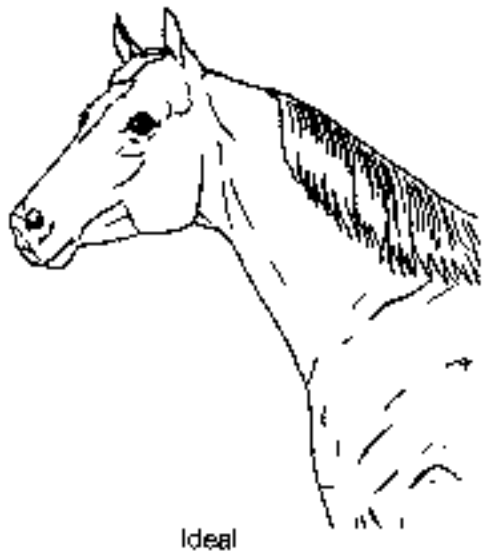


Deviations from Ideal (Basic Faults)

Head	
Roman Nose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The bridge of the nose has a rounded or convex shape when viewed from the side• Restricts the horse's frontal vision
Pig Eye	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small eyes which are set too far back into the head• Restricts vision, especially to the rear• Horse often has a nervous or unruly disposition
Parrot Mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top jaw is longer than bottom jaw
Monkey Mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bottom jaw is longer than top jaw



Neck	
Ewe Neck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neck appears to be “turned over” • Restricts flexion at the poll • Horse tends to throw head upward • Restricts vision
Cresty Neck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excess fat deposits on the crest of the neck • Increases the weight carried on the forelegs



Shoulder	
Steep Shoulder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoulder angle steeper than 50 degrees • Decreases the length of stride • Increases concussion or pressure on the forelegs

Chest	
Narrow Chest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legs are too close together • Legs may interfere when horse travels
Extra-Wide Chest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legs set too far apart • Causes a labouring, waddling stride



Narrow Chest



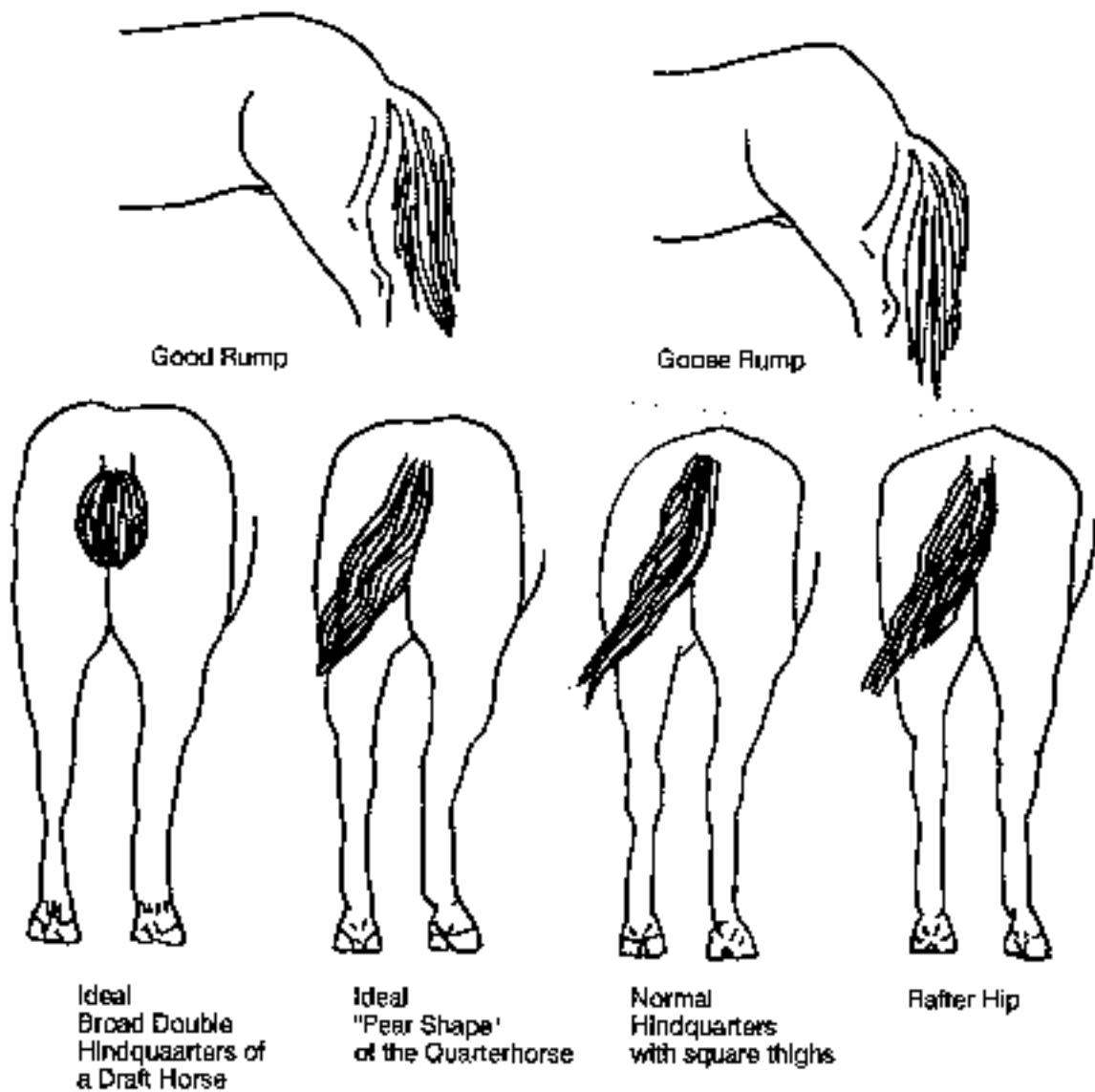
Ideal



Extra-Wide Chest

Topline	
Mutton Withers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low, wide withers • Withers are prone to injury if saddle slides forward • Hard to keep the saddle in place - prone to slip to one side
Sway Back	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak topline • Usually seen in older horses • Usually seen in horses with long backs and/or loins • Restricts ability to pull legs forward beneath the hindquarters
Roach Back	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loin has a rounded (convex) appearance when viewed from the side • Restricts flexibility

Hip and Croup	
Goose Rump	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hip is too steep when viewed from the side • Decreases the length of stride and speed • Increases concussion on the hind legs
Rafter Hip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When viewed from the rear, the width at the point of the hip is greater than the width at the stifle • The hip is too flat over the top • Indicates a lack of muscular development • Horse may interfere during traveling due to lack of muscular support



Heartgirth and Flank

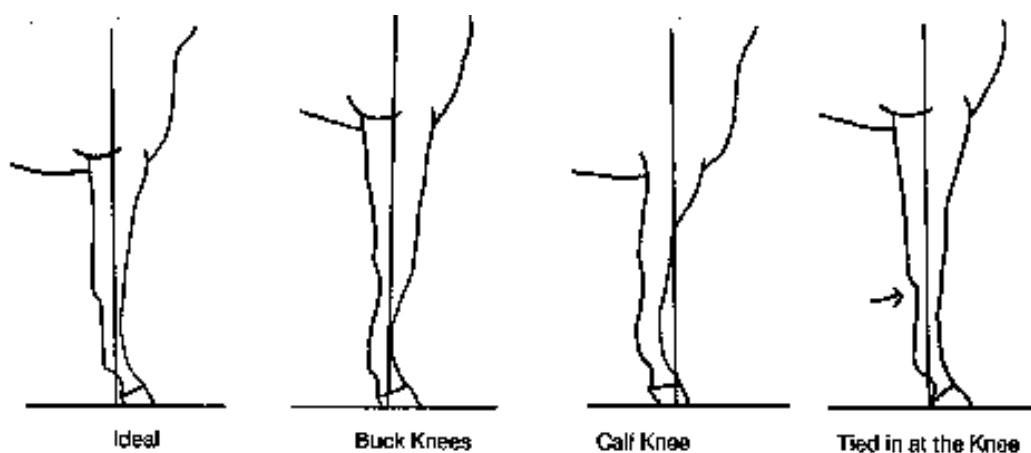
Shallow Heartgirth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depth from withers to elbow is less than the length from elbow to ground • Restricts the capacity for heart and lungs • May decrease endurance of the horse
Shallow Flank (Cut up in the Flank)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronounced narrowing in the flank region • Decreases capacity of digestive system • Decreases the foal carrying capacity in mares

Feet and Legs

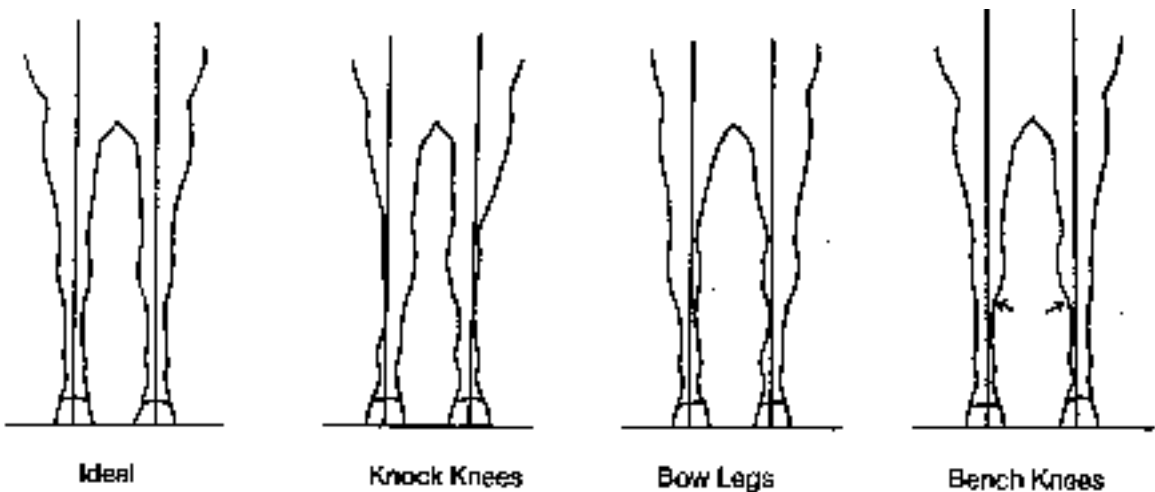
Two or more defects in the feet and legs may appear together. For example, buck knees and bench knees, base narrow and toe out, etc.

Front Leg Defects Viewing from the Side

Buck Knees (Over at the Knee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The knee is forward of a line that bisects (divides in half) the foreleg • This horse will be susceptible to bowed tendons
Calf Knees (Back at the Knee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The knee is behind a line that bisects the foreleg • Places excess stress on the front of the knee and strain on the tendons • This horse will be susceptible to chip fractures of the knee and bowed tendons • More serious than buck knees
Tied-in at the Knee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The flexor tendon appears to be too close to the cannon bone just below the knee • This horse will be susceptible to bowed tendons

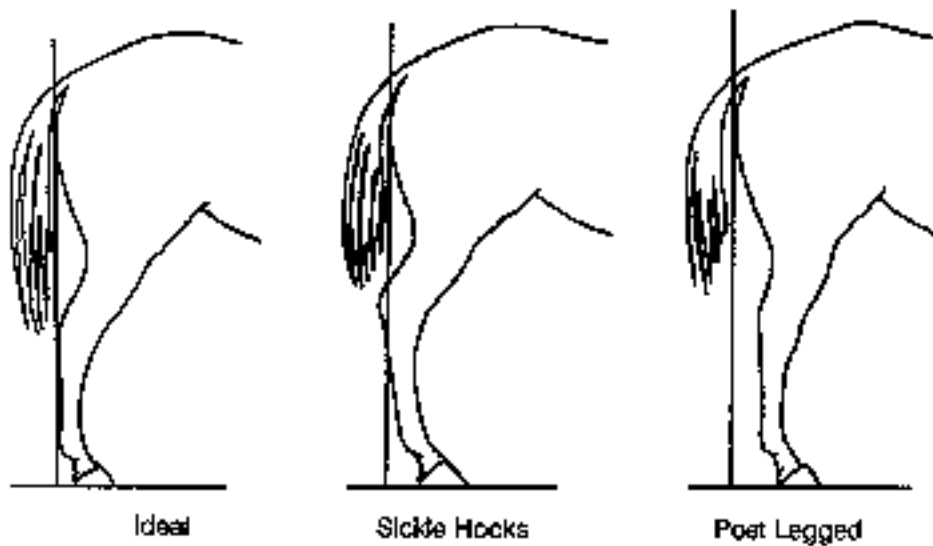


Front Leg Defects Viewing from the Front	
Knock Knees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The knees lie inside parallel lines bisecting the forelegs • Places excess stress on the outer knee and strain on the inside ligaments
Bow Legs (Bandy-Legged)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The knees lie outside parallel lines bisecting the forelegs • Places excess stress on the inner knee and strain on the outside ligament
Bench Knees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cannon bone is offset to the outside of the knee • Places more stress on the inside splint bones • More susceptible to splints or knee chips



Hind Leg Defects

Hind Leg Defects Viewing from the Side	
Sickle Hocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive angulation of the hock joint • The horse appears to be standing under from the hock down • Places excess strain on the planter ligament • Susceptible to curbs
Post Legged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient angulation of the hock joint • The entire leg appears too straight • The hind leg is usually set ahead of a line dropped from the point of the buttock • The pasterns are usually also too straight • Places excess stress on the front of the hock joint and on the stifle joint • Susceptible to bog spavins, thoroughpins or bone spavins



Hind Leg Defects Viewing from the Rear	
Cow Hocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hocks are too close together and point toward one another, causing the feet to be widely separated and often pointing outward • One of the worst hind leg defects • Places excess stress on the hock joint and strain on the ligaments • Susceptible to bone spavins, curbs or thoroughpins
Bow Legged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hocks lie outside parallel lines bisecting the hind legs • May cause interference because horse moves narrower at the ground than at the hock • Places excess stress on the hock joint and strain on the ligaments • Susceptible to bog spavins, curbs or thoroughpins

