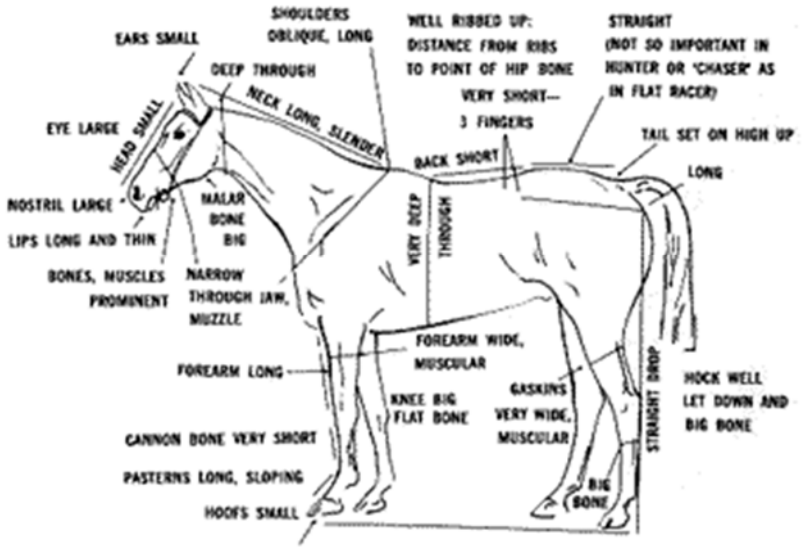
Conformation Faults

USPC D Manual 2nd Ed., p255-257

Name: _____

Date _____



Desirable Conformation

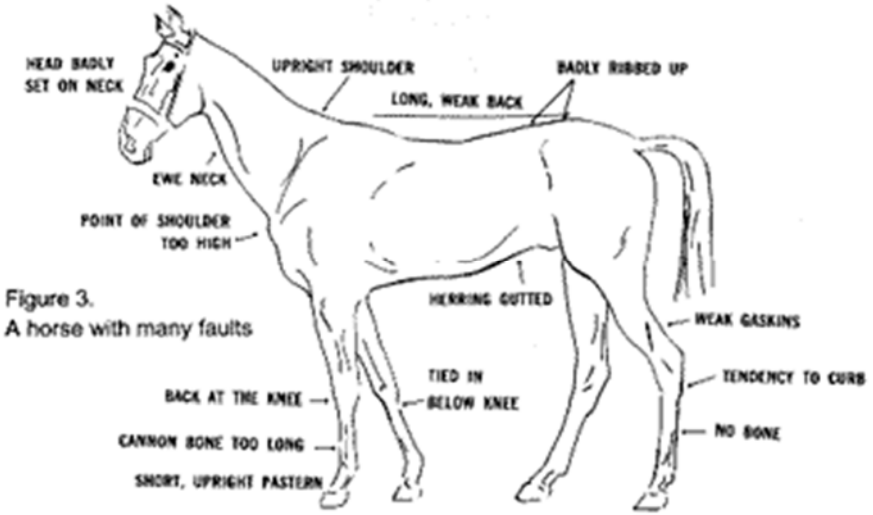


Figure 3.
A horse with many faults

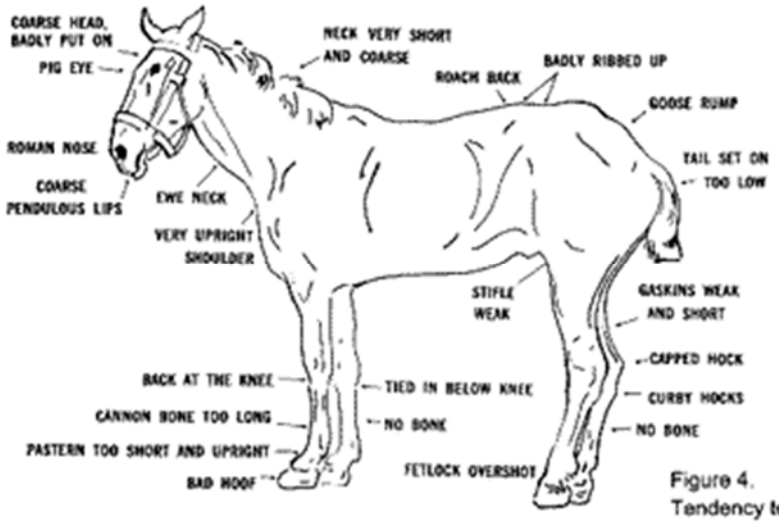


Figure 4.
Tendency toward unsoundness

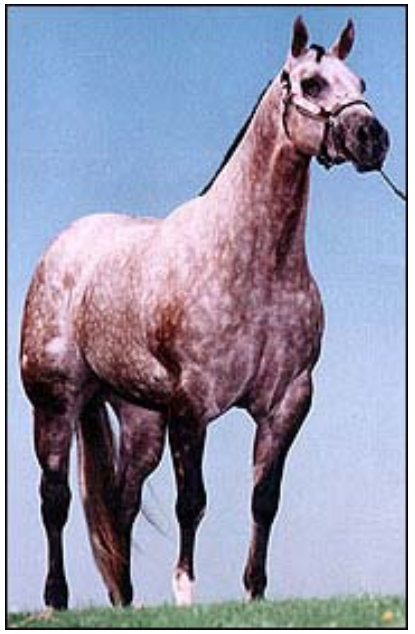
Horse with Many Faults

Tends toward Unsoundness

What is Conformation? __**the way a pony is built**___

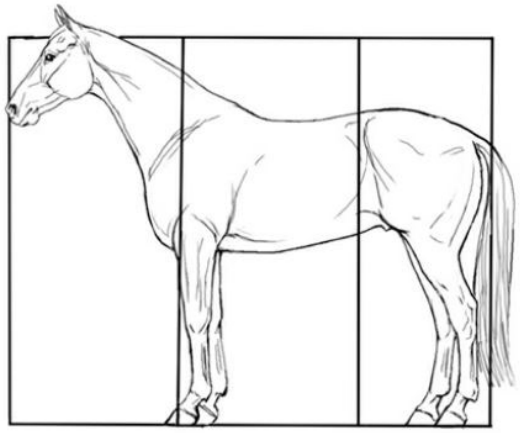
Name 3 things that good conformation improves:

1. __**move and perform better**___
2. __**smoother gaits**_____
3. ___**less likely to breakdown**_____



Some types of conformation look less attractive but don't effect the way the horse moves. For example: a dish face or roman nose are types of head conformation, but do not effect the horse's breathing. But small nostrils, or a parrot mouth can hinder your horse's eating and breathing. It's important to remember that every horse has good and bad points in its conformation. No horse is perfect and many horses (including Olympic caliber horses) excel even with their conformation faults.

A horse with athletic conformation can be divided into even thirds.
1/3 head & shoulder
1/3 back
1/3 hindquarters



Horse divided into thirds.

A horse with good conformation has a body that fits into a square (excluding head and neck). His height will be the same as his body's length

Head

Good

__wide at jaw_____

large, kind eyes

_large nostrils ____

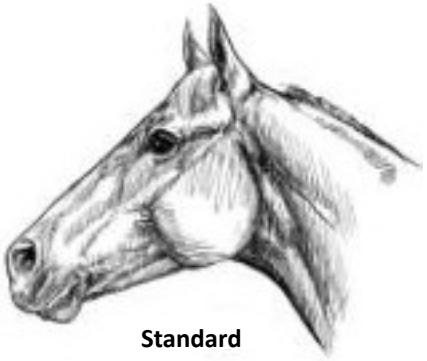
Faults

__narrow jaw_ (less responsive to bit)

_small "pig eyes" _(reduced vision)

__small nostrils____(air flow)

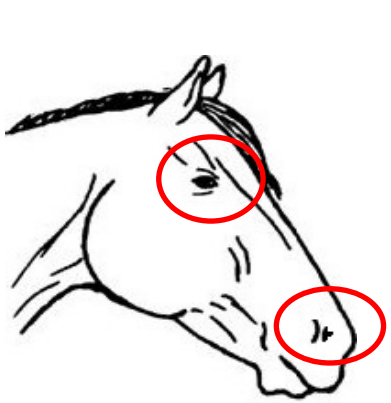
__Over or Undershot__(eating problems)



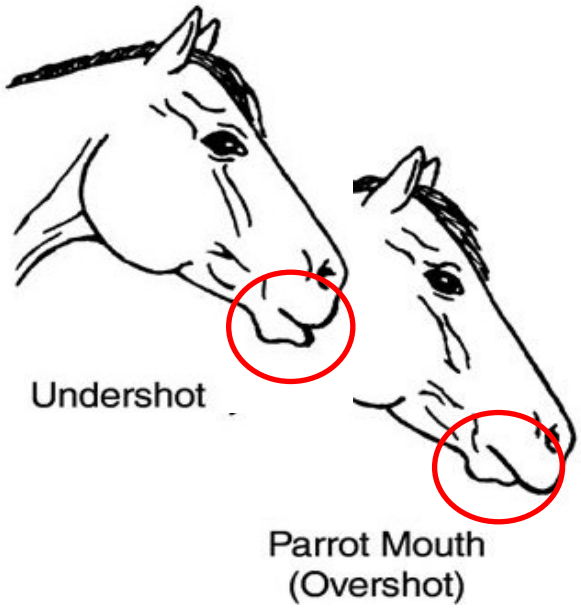
Standard

Roman Nose

Dish Face



Pig-eyed



Undershot

Parrot Mouth
(Overshot)

D3– Name one common fault of the Head

Neck

D3– Name one common fault of the Neck

Good

_**medium long**_____

_**slightly arched**___

_blends smoothly into withers

not thick or puffy at throat

Faults

**short & thick (bull Neck)** (short, choppy gaits, but good for pulling sports)

**dips & bulges (ewe neck)**(hard to flex, head held too high)

Shoulder

Good

_Long_____

_Sloping____

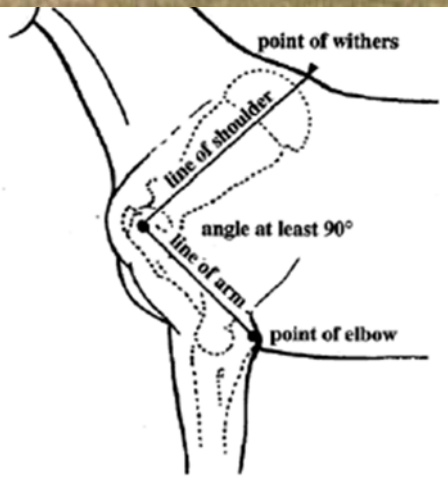
This gives longer, smoother strides, easier to jump

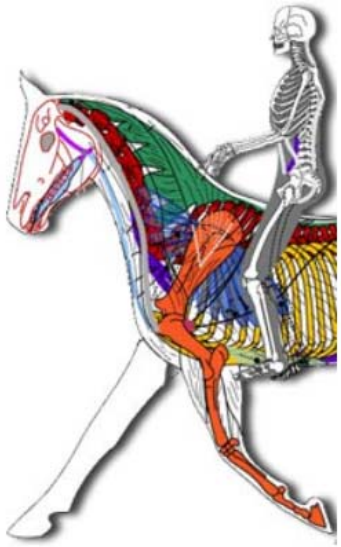
Faults

_short _

_upright____

Causes rough gaits & harder to fold front legs for jumping

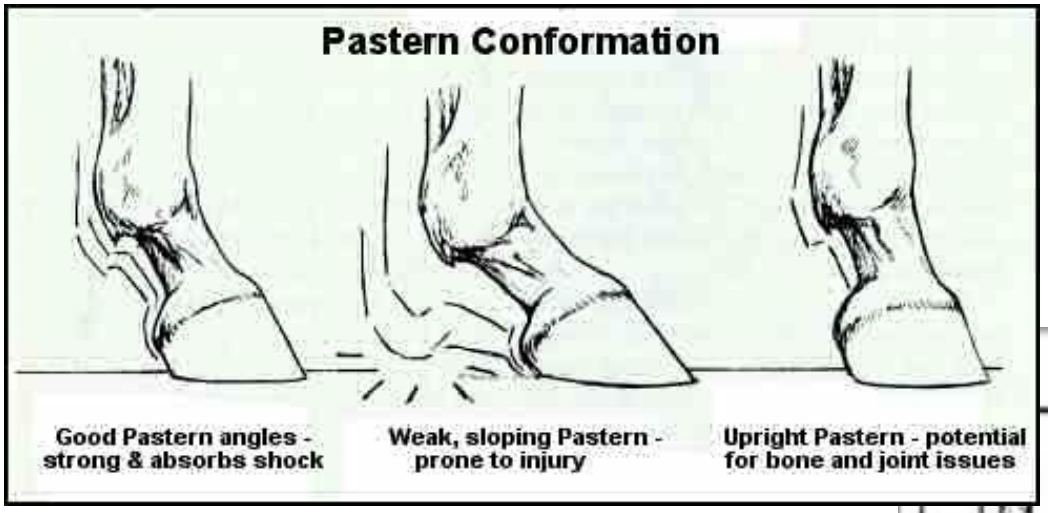


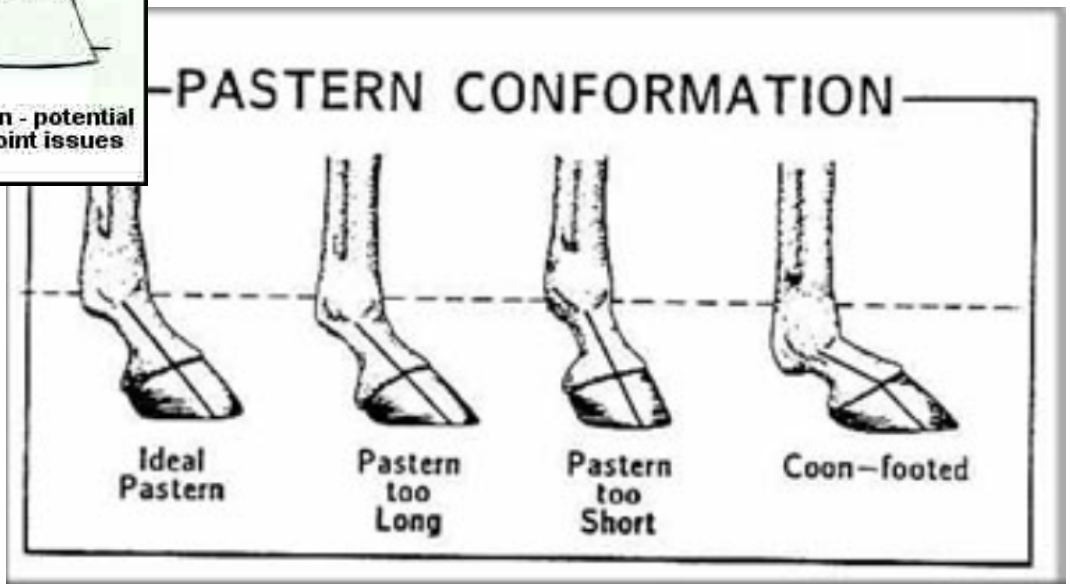


D3– Name one common fault of the Shoulder

Pastern

Good	Faults
_medium length___	_short (rough gaits)_
_medium slope____	upright (not springy enough
(Pasterns are the 'shock absorbers, And need to be springy)	_slope too much (weak)_

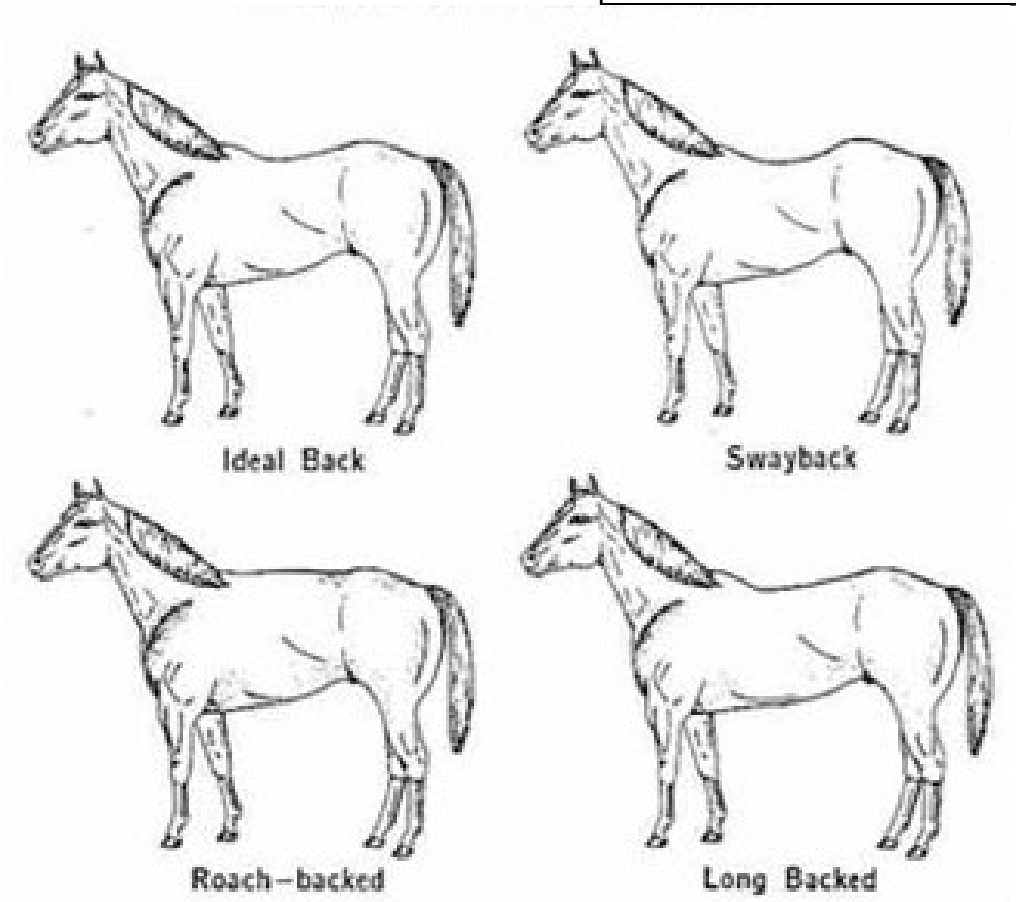




D3– Name one common fault of the Pastern

Back

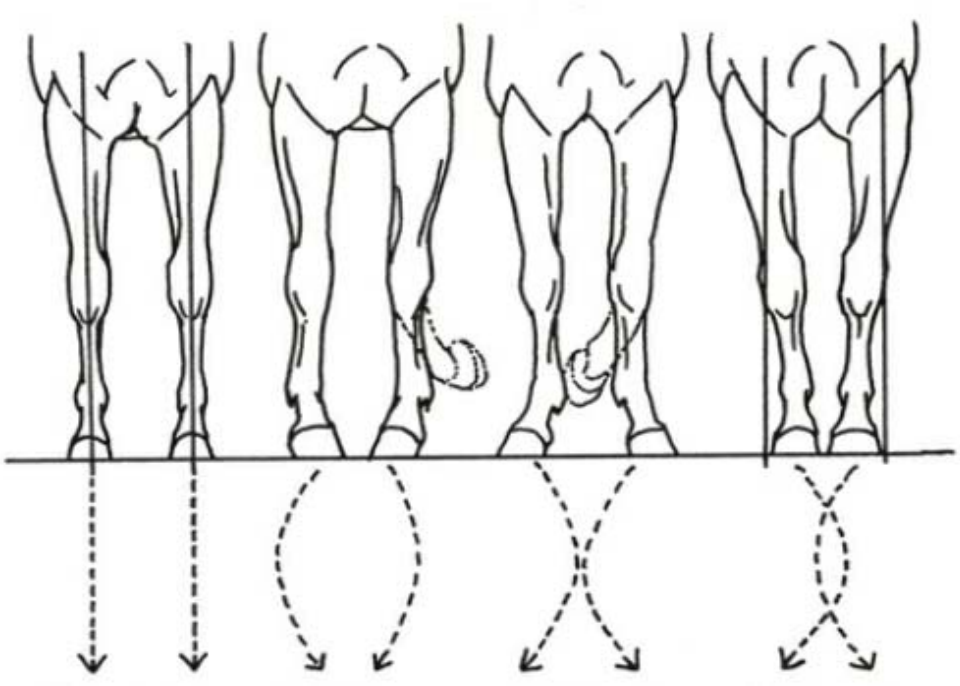
Good	Faults
short	too long
well muscled	withers too high
smooth into loin & withers	withers too fatty
A short muscled back is stronger And good withers help keep the Saddle in place.	A long back is weaker, and high withers are harder to fit a saddle



D3– Name one common fault of the Back

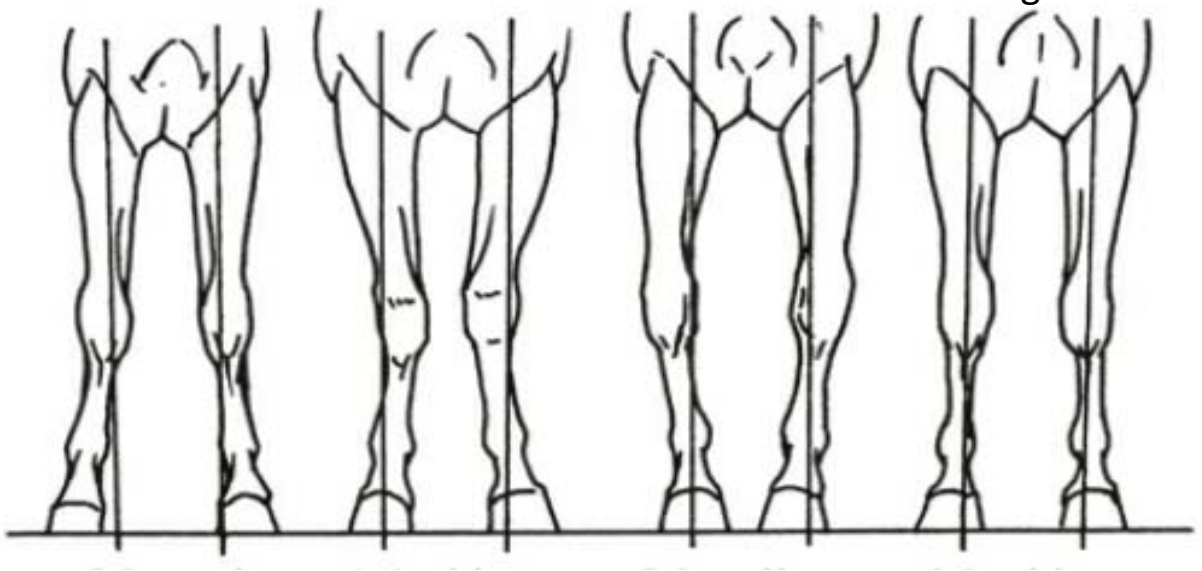
Front Legs

Have the kids get up and try walking with pigeon toes, or toes out, or narrow base, knock knees, bowed knees—can they feel the stress?



1.Straight Legs, Move Straight 2.Toes IN Paddles 3. Toes Out Wings In 4. Base narrow Plaits

3 and 4 above can may result in interference in the gait, causing injury to the lower leg



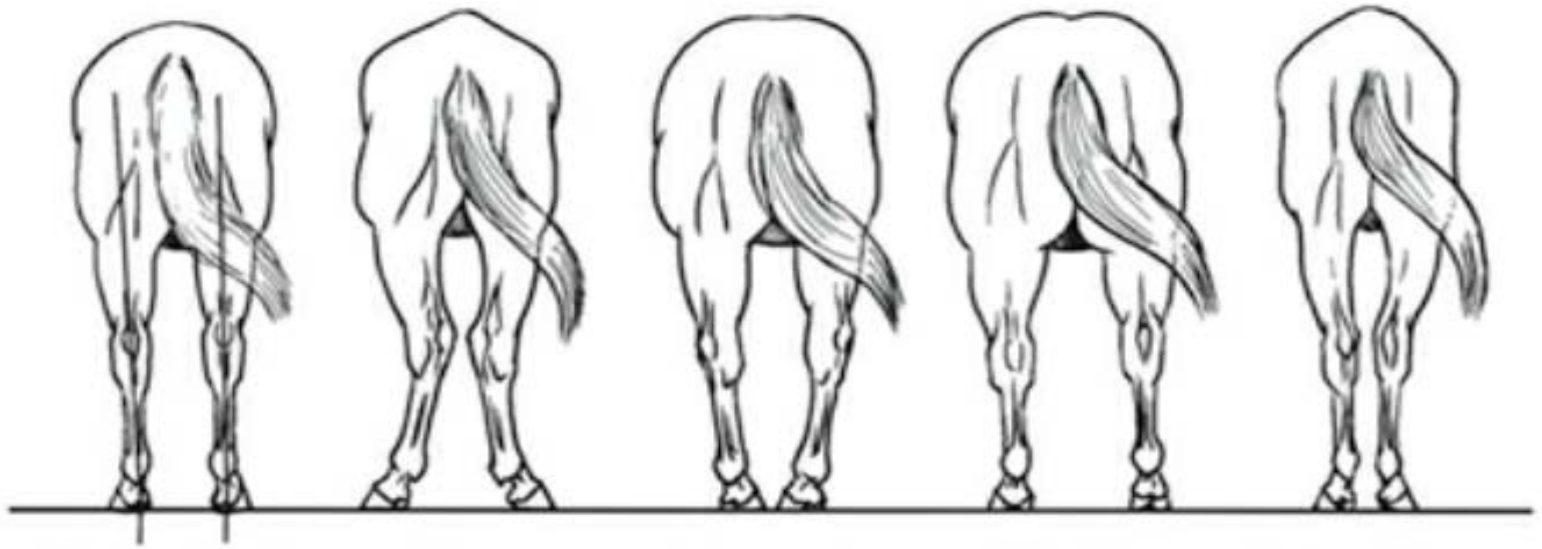
5.Base Wide, 6. Knock-knees 7. Bowed knees 8.Bench knees

These 4 cause uneven pressure on the feet and knees and can lead to splits and ringbone

C1– Name & discuss 3 bad points to basic leg conformation

C manual, p324-330

Hind Legs



1.Good Hind Legs, straight, parallel

2.Cow Hocks (stress hocks)

3. Bowed hocks (stress Hocks)

4. Too Wide (short strides)

5. too narrow (poor muscles)

C1– Name & discuss 3 bad points to basic leg conformation

C manual, p324-330

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