

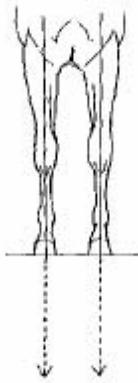


Middle California Region Foreleg Conformation

Study Guide

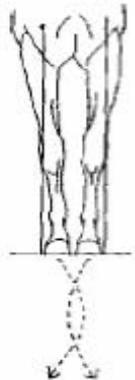


Straight Foreleg



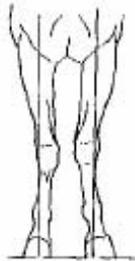
Good forelegs viewed from the front should be straight and parallel, not too close together or too far apart. You should be able to drop a plumb line evenly through each leg from the point of shoulder.

Base Narrow



The legs are closer together at the feet than at the chest, inside the plumb line. This increases the stress on the outsides of the feet and legs, leading to splints or ringbone. It also causes movement problems such as plaiting and interfering.

Knock-knees



Knock knees bend inward so that the knees are inside the plumb line. This puts extra stress on the knees and on the inside of the legs, putting the horse at risk for carpalis, splints and ringbone.

Toes In (Pigeon-toed)



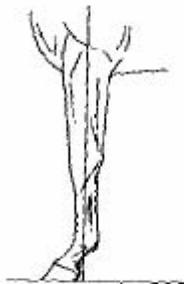
The toes point inward instead of straight ahead. This puts uneven weight on the outside of the hooves and legs, possibly leading to splints or ringbone. It also causes the horse to swing the feet inwards while moving, called paddling.

Toes Out (Splay-footed)



The toes point outward instead of straight ahead, putting uneven weight on the inside of the legs and contributing to splints or ringbone. It also causes a movement called winging in, where each foot swings towards the opposite leg. This may cause interference and lameness.

Straight Foreleg (side)



A good foreleg viewed from the side. A vertical line (called a “plumb line”) should run from the center of the shoulder blade, down the middle of the leg, to the fetlock joint. Half of the leg should be in front of the plumb line and half behind it.

Camped Out in Front



Most of the foreleg is in front of the plumb line, with the leg out in front of the horse. This puts extra stress on the flexor tendon and heels.

Long, Flat Pastern



Long, flat pasterns are weak and prone to injury. They may allow the fetlock joint to strike the ground when under stress, and increase the pressure on the tendons

Knee-sprung (Over at the knee)



The knee looks slightly bent, putting the lower leg too far under the horse. This puts extra stress on the knee and tendons, and in severe cases may cause stumbling.

Short, Steep Pastern



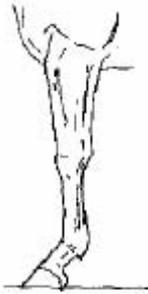
A short, upright pastern does not absorb shock well. It produces a shortened stride and a rougher gait, and may contribute to common unsoundnesses caused by concussion, such as ringbone, sidebone, and navicular.

Standing Under



Most of the foreleg is behind the plumb line, tipping the horse's weight forward. This causes him to move on the forehand, and may lead to stumbling.

Tied In Below Knee



Small, weak tendons which look as though they are squeezed right below the knee are weak, poorly developed, and easily prone to injury.