



Winchelsea Veterinary Services

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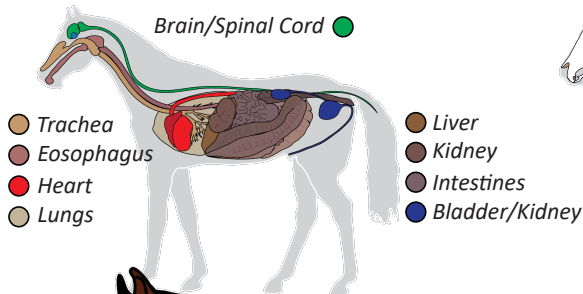
Nanaimo, BC, V9R 7C7, Canada



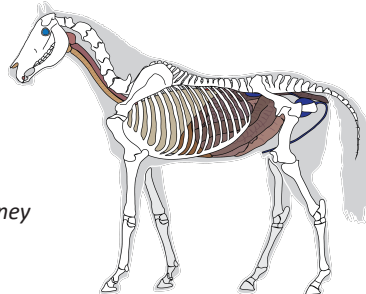
Basic Equine Anatomy & First Aid Principles

This poster is a guide only and is not a substitute for veterinary care. In all emergencies, contact your veterinarian immediately

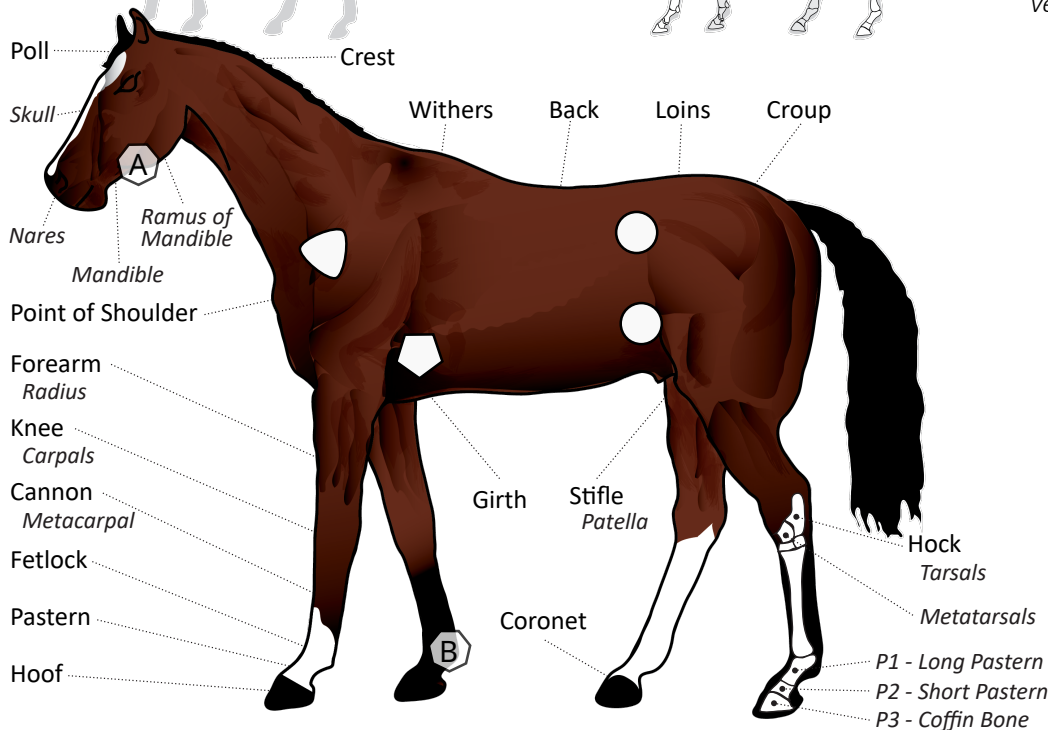
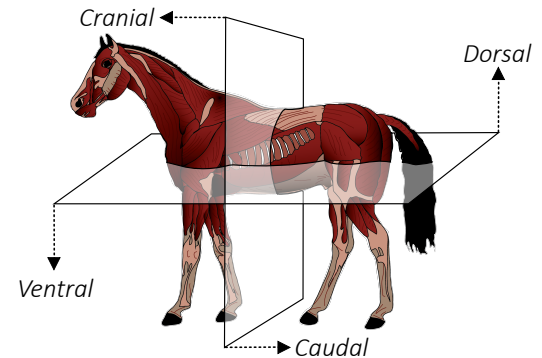
Internal Organs (Left Side)



Equine Skeleton



Directional Terms & Equine Musculature



Gut Sounds

Listen to sounds on left and right sides of horse

Heart Sounds

Best heard at the point of elbow on the left side

Facial Artery Pulse

Found at the cranial aspect of the ramus of the mandible

Digital Artery Pulse

On the inside and caudal aspect of front fetlock

Skin Tent

Near where the neck and shoulder blade merge

Normal Vital Signs

- Pulse: 24-40 beats per minute
- Respiration: 8-12 breaths per minute
- Temperature: 37-38 C (98.6-100.4 F)
- Skin Tent: 1-2 seconds
- Mucous Membranes: Pink, moist
- Capillary Refill Time (CRT): 1-2 seconds

Pain Assessment

Pawing
Flank watching
Sweating
Increased heart rate
Grinding teeth
Reluctance to move
Laying down frequently
Non-weight bearing

Pain-face Scoring

Lowered ears
Facial muscle tension
Tense stare
Muscles above eyes tented
Dilated/flared nostrils
Lips pursed tightly together

Respiratory Assessment

Nostril flare
Increased respiratory rate
Increased abdominal effort
Presence of heaves line
Extended head and neck
Open-mouth breathing
Lethargic

Hydration Assessment

Delayed skin tent (>5 s)
Decreased skin elasticity
Tacky / sticky gums
Prolonged CRT (>2s)
Sunken eyes

When to Call your Veterinarian

- Pulse: > 60 beats per minute at rest
- Respiration: >30 breaths per minute at rest
- Temperature: >39 C (>102.2 F)
- Skin Tent: >5 seconds
- Mucous Membranes: Pale, blue or yellow
- Capillary Refill Time: >3 seconds
- Severe pain / colic signs
- Profuse bleeding / extensive injury
- Down or unable to rise