

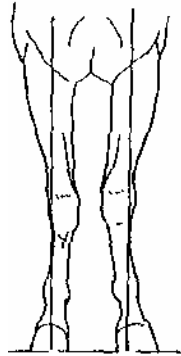
#27

Conformation of the Foreleg



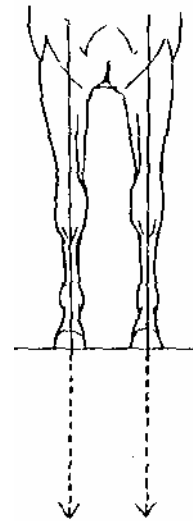
#28

Conformation of the Foreleg



#29

Conformation of the Foreleg



P

Bowed Knees

Bowed knees bend outward, so that the knees are outside the plumb line. This makes the legs weaker, and puts extra stress on the knees and on the outside of the legs.

jj

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.

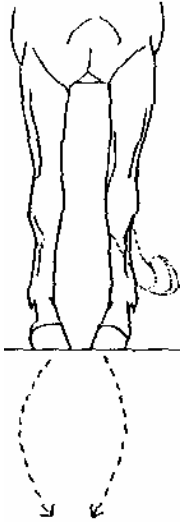
bb

Straight Foreleg (front)

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.

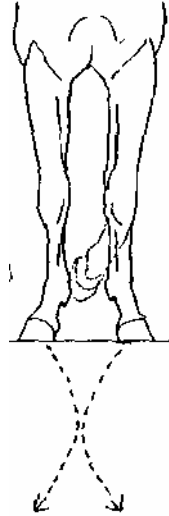
#30

Conformation of the Foreleg



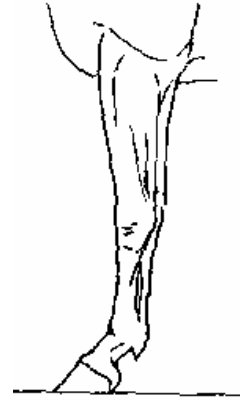
#31

Conformation of the Foreleg



#32

Conformation of the Foreleg



F

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.

aa

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.

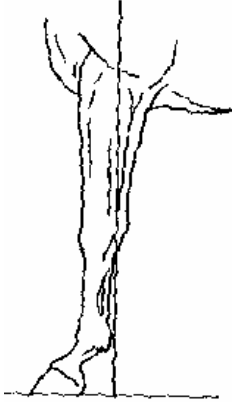
X

Calf Knee (Back at the Knee)

The knee has a slight backwards bend, with the cannon bone slanting forward. This increases stress on the flexor tendons, fetlock joints and bones of the knee, contributing towards bowed tendons, carpalis, or bone chips in the knee.

#33

Conformation of the Foreleg



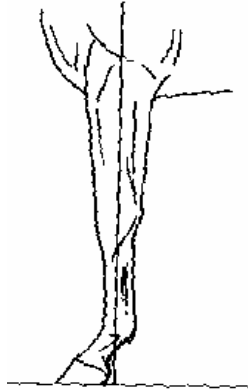
mm

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.

#34

Conformation of the Foreleg



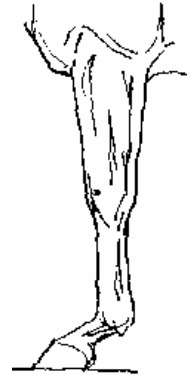
E

Straight Foreleg (side)

A good foreleg viewed from the side should be straight and balanced. You should be able to drop a plumb line from the center of the shoulder blade to the ground, dividing the leg evenly in half.

#35

Conformation of the Foreleg



gg

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.