

# Lameness in the Horse

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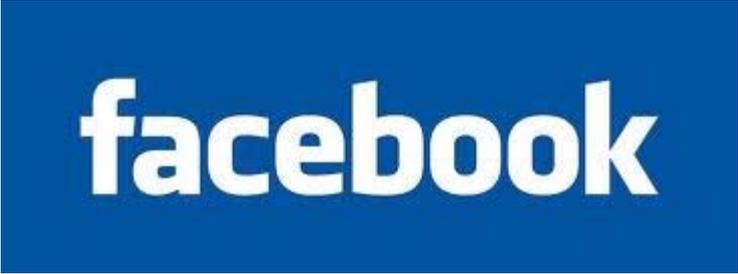


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# Lameness

- Any alteration of the horse's gait
- Change in attitude or performance
- Mechanical and neurological

# Lameness

- Abnormalities caused by pain:
  - Neck
  - Shoulders
  - Legs
  - Withers
  - Back
  - Feet
  - Loin
  - Hips



# AAEP Lameness Scale

Grade	Degree of Lameness
0	Lameness not perceptible under any circumstances
1	Lameness is difficult to observe and is not consistently apparent, regardless of circumstances
2	Lameness is difficult to observe at a walk, or when trotting in a straight line, but consistently apparent under certain circumstances
3	Lameness is consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances
4	Lameness is obvious at a walk
5	Lameness produces minimal weight bearing in motion and/or at rest or a complete inability to move

# Examination Procedures

- Evaluation at the horse in motion
  - Hard and soft surfaces
  - Under saddle
  - Longe line



# Examination Procedures

- Shortening of the stride
- Irregular foot placement
- Head bobbing
- Stiffness
- Weight shifting

# Front Limb Lameness

- The head and the neck elevate or rise when the lame forelimb is bearing weight or hits the ground and nods down when the sound forelimb hits the ground.

# Hind Limb Lameness

- The pelvis “hikes” upward when the lame limb hits the ground and moves downward when the sound limb hits the ground
  - i.e. the side with the most movement is the lame hind limb

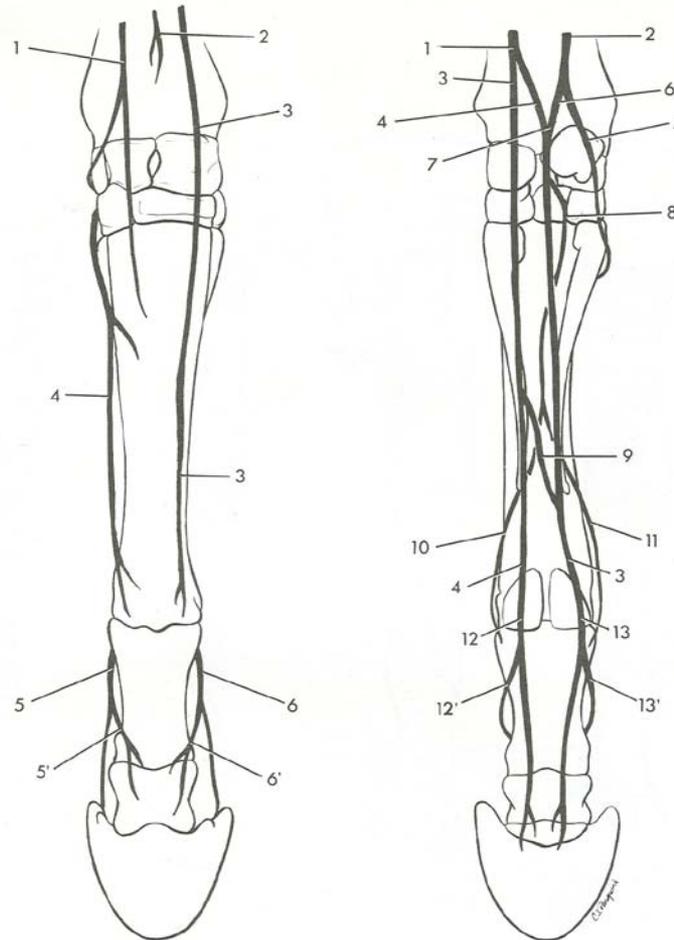
# Examination Procedures

- Medical history
- Visual appraisal
- Hands on exam
- Hoof testers
- Joint flexion tests



# Diagnostic Testing

- Nerve blocks
- Joint blocks



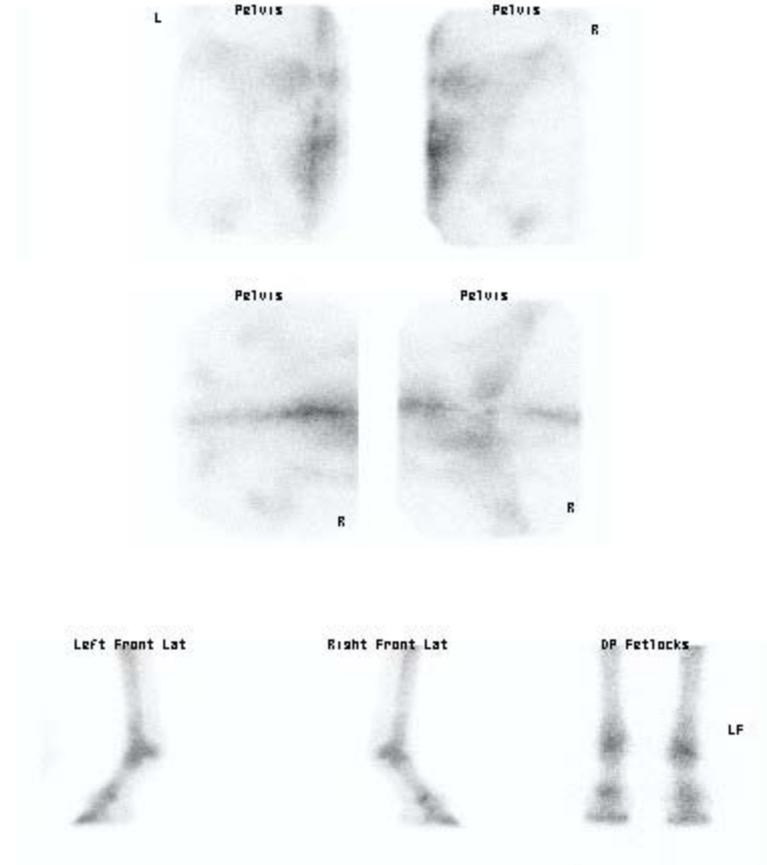
# Diagnostic Testing

- Radiographs



# Diagnostic Testing

- Scintigraphy  
(Nuclear scanning)



# Diagnostic Testing

- Ultrasound (Sonography)



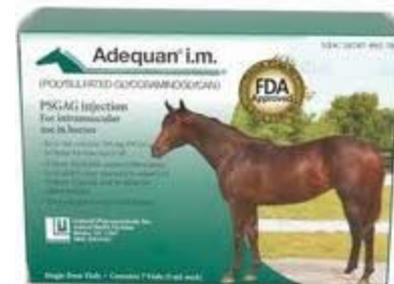
# Diagnostic Testing

- Arthroscopy
- MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)
- Blood, synovial (joint) fluid and tissue samples



# Systemic Therapies for Joints

- Nonsteroid anti-inflammatory drugs
  - Phenylbutazone "bute"
  - Naproxen
  - Flunixin meglumine "Banamine"
  - Ketoprofen "Ketofen"
  - Firocoxib "Equioxx"
- Hyaluronan(HA)
  - Legend
- Polysulfated glycosaminoglycans (PSGAGs)
  - Adequan IA or IM
  - Pentosan polysulfate "Pentosan"
- Bisphosphonates
  - Bisphosphonate tiludronate "Tildren"
- Tetracyclines
  - Doxycycline



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# Intra-Articular Joint Therapies

- Corticosteroids
  - Short-acting- Vetalog (triamcinolone acetomide)
  - Medium-acting- Betamethasone
  - Long-acting- Depo-Medrol (methylprednisolone)
- Hyaluronan (HA)
  - Hylartin-V
  - Legend IA
  - Hyvic
- Polysulfated glycosaminoglycan
  - Adequan IA
- IRAP
- PRP

# Regenerative Therapies for Ligaments and Tendons

- Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP)  
Growth factors which improve healing process



# Regenerative Therapies for Ligaments and Tendons

- Stem Cells
  - Differentiates into tissue types
  - Derived from adipose (fat) or bone marrow

# Extracorporeal Shock Wave

