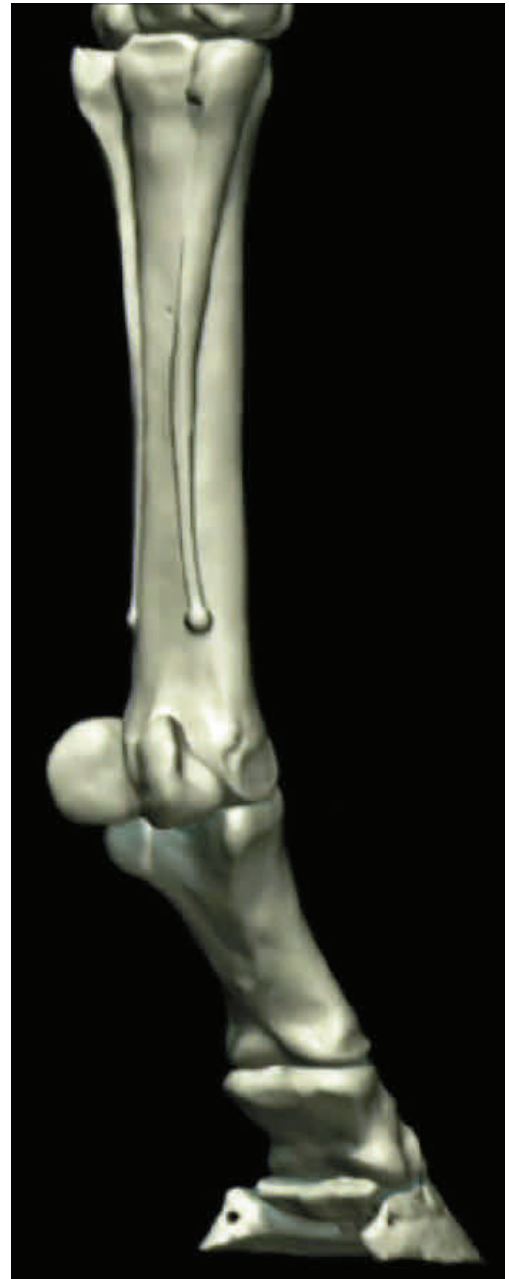




Long and Short Pastern Bone, Proximal Sesamoids

The long pastern bone, also named the first phalanx or P1, is the more proximal (closest to the body) of the two bones in the pastern.



It has a flattened, cylindrical shape and is slightly flared at each end. It articulates (connects) proximally (on its upper end) with the cannon bone and distally (on its lower end) with the short pastern bone (second phalanx or P2). It can be felt immediately under the skin and the extensor tendon.

Both proximal and distal surfaces have a clearly defined central groove that runs front to back.



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The short pastern bone (2nd phalanx or P2) is the middle one of the three bones that form the bony column of the digit.

It has a similar appearance to P1, except that it is generally only half the length of P1 and so is more formed like a cube.

Like P1 the articular surfaces are concave proximally (at the pastern joint) and convex distally (at the coffin joint), but P2 has a sagittal ridge at its proximal end that fits into the sagittal groove on the distal end of P1. Additionally, it has a shallow indentation on its distal articular surface that fits with a median bulge in the articular surface of P3.

All this means these connections are only made to move forward and back, but have very little flexibility sideways.

The proximal palmar sesamoids are the pair of bones that lie on the palmar surface of the fetlock joint.

Pictures: The Glass Horse—Equine Distal Limb
Text: Claudia Garner

