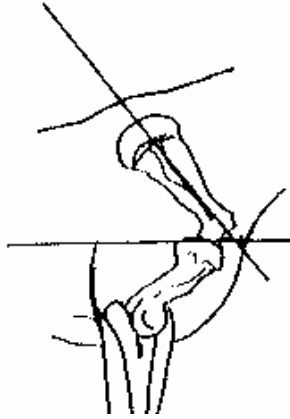


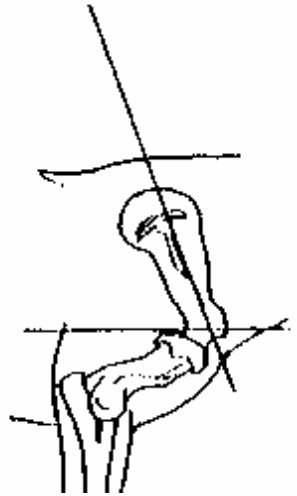
#1

Conformation of the Shoulder



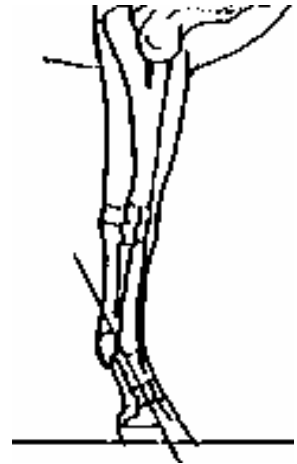
#2

Conformation of the Shoulder



#3

Conformation of the Foreleg (Pastern)



T

Sloping Shoulder

This desirable sloping shoulder, at about a 50-degree angle, improves the horse's range of motion, resulting in a longer, smoother stride and a better ability to bring the legs up in jumping.

G

Steep Shoulder

This steep shoulder angle results in a shorter stride and rougher movement, increasing concussion in the shoulder and foreleg. It also makes it difficult for the horse to bring his knees up when jumping.

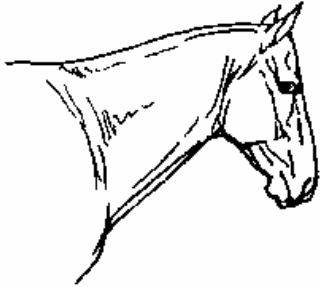
A

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.

#4

Conformation of the Neck



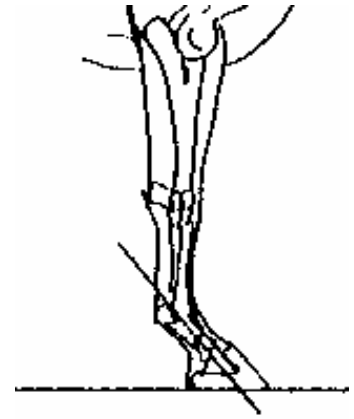
#5

Conformation of the Neck



#6

Conformation of the Foreleg (Pastern)



K

Ewe Neck

A ewe neck is straight or hollow along the crest, and bulges out at the bottom; it is usually set at a sharp angle to the head and thick at the throatlash. This makes it difficult for the horse to flex at the poll and use his neck for balance.

Y

Good Neck

A good neck should be of medium length, well muscled, and slightly arched, with a clean throatlash. It should blend smoothly into the withers and topline, and join at the top of the chest.

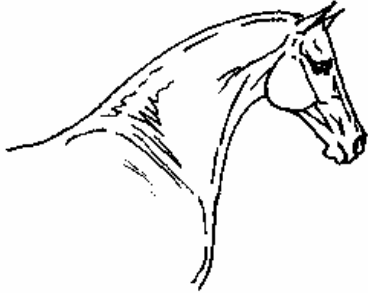
D

Good Pastern

A good pastern slopes at a medium angle, preferably matching the angle of the shoulder. This allows it to best absorb concussion.

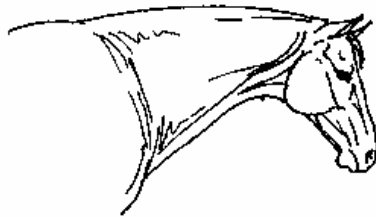
#7

Conformation of the Neck



#8

Conformation of the Neck



#9

Conformation of the Head



U

High-set Neck

A high-set neck angles upwards from the shoulders. It makes collection easier, but the horse may raise his head too high and move with a hollow back.

M

Low-set Neck

A low-set neck joins at the front of the chest. This makes it difficult for the horse to balance himself, and he will likely move on the forehand.

I

Coarse Head

This coarse head has a thick throatlash, which will make it difficult for the horse to flex at the poll. In addition, small, flat nostrils make it harder for the horse to breathe, and small eyes may make it difficult for the horse to see all around him.

#10

Conformation of the Head



#11

Conformation of the Head



#12

Conformation of the Head



hh

Good Head and Throatlash

A good head should be in proportion to the horse's neck, with wide jaws and a clean throatlash allowing the horse to flex at the poll. It should have a large, kind eye, large nostrils and correctly aligned teeth.

w

Monkey Mouth

A monkey mouth, also called an undershot jaw, is a condition where the lower teeth of the horse protrude beyond the upper teeth. This makes it difficult for the horse to graze and chew normally.

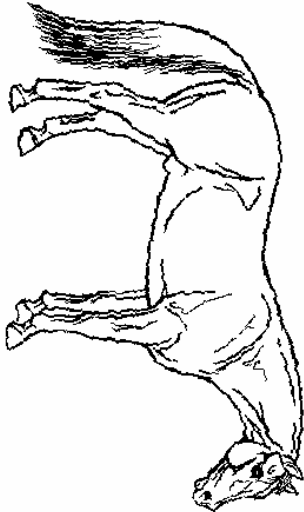
cc

Parrot Mouth

The upper teeth of a parrot-mouthed horse extend beyond the lower teeth in a severe overbite. This makes it difficult for the horse to graze and chew normally.

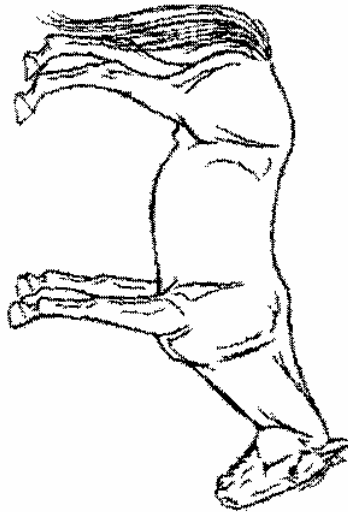
#13

Conformation of the Back



#14

Conformation of the Back



Matching Answers for Conformation Cards

D-3

- 1 = T
- 2 = G
- 3 = A
- 4 = K
- 5 = Y
- 6 = D
- 7 = U
- 8 = M
- 9 = I
- 10 = hh
- 11 = W
- 12 = cc
- 13 = H
- 14 = kk

H

Short, Well-muscled Back

A good back should be short, well muscled, and moderately broad, blending smoothly into the withers. This back is strong and will be able to carry weight well.

kk

Long, Hollow Back

A hollow back (sway back), is weak and makes saddle fitting difficult. The horse may move with poor engagement and a higher head. A back longer than 1/3 of the horse's overall body length is also weak and may sway over time.

CONFORMATION CARDS

D-3

LEVEL



COHUTTA HIGHLANDERS
PONY CLUB