

Parts of the Horse

A horse's front legs carry over half (60%) of their weight. Horses have no muscles at all below their knees and hocks. Even more surprising, a horse's front legs are not attached to his skeleton by joints. They are held to the body at the shoulder by strong muscles and ligaments. Horses are wonderful evidence of a wise Creator, but in particular the structure of their legs.

Knowing the parts of a horse is important. How a horse's parts conform to the standard (conformation) determines to a great extent how well the horse will be able to function. That's an important factor when purchasing a horse.

Knowing horse parts will also help you fit tack properly. And when your horse is injured or sick, it will allow you to describe the symptoms or injuries accurately and perhaps apply a treatment recommended by a veterinarian. For example, it would be hard to ice a horse's hock if you have no idea where the hock is!

Study the parts of the horse labeled below. Then, without looking at this diagram, try to locate as many parts as you can on the following photo of a young Kezzie.



