

What is required at each level:

- Level 1:
 - Give your reasons on the conformation(halter) class for one (1) pair that the coordinator chooses.
- Level 2:
 - Give your reasons on the conformation(halter) class for two (2) pairs that the coordinator chooses.
- Level 3:
 - Give your reasons on the conformation(halter) class for all three (3) pairs.

IMPORTANT:

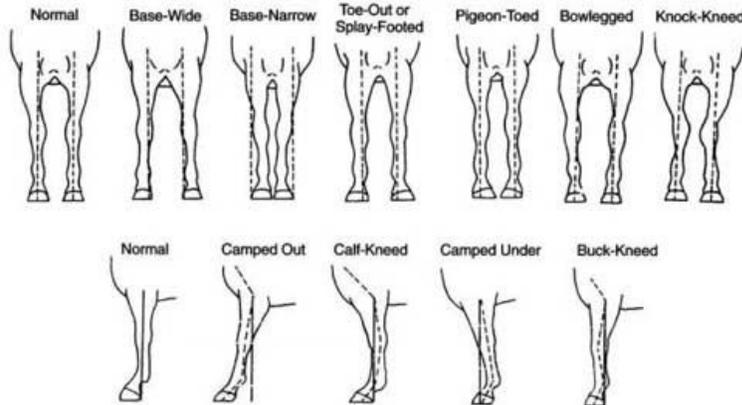
- DO NOT focus too much on one aspect during your placing and/or reasons.
- Do what works for you. No sense changing something that is working for you.
- Go with your instinct. NO second guessing.

Helpful tricks:

- Place the horse in an imaginary tent. Roll the bottom of the tent up and start judging only what you see. This focuses on the most important aspects of the horse first.
- Draw circles around the shoulder, barrel, and hip areas. Compare the diameters to check for equality. This creates a balanced horse.
- Look for a 45 degree angle in the shoulder, hoofs, and chest. An angle larger than 45 degrees will potentially result in a longer stride. An angle smaller than 45 degrees will potentially result in a shorter stride.
- Take note of what stands out when you first look the horse, and work off that.
- Draw lines mentally on the horses in order to visually help check the leg conformation of the horse.
- Look at actual examples of horses with someone and practice identifying faults and positives on a horse. You can look at horses from your barn or go to a show and practice.
- A horse “is a beast of burden” meaning that they need to be able to do the job they are bred to do or the job you need them to do.
- “The truth is in the travel.”
- KNOW YOUR TERMINOLOGY!!!

Foreleg conformation:

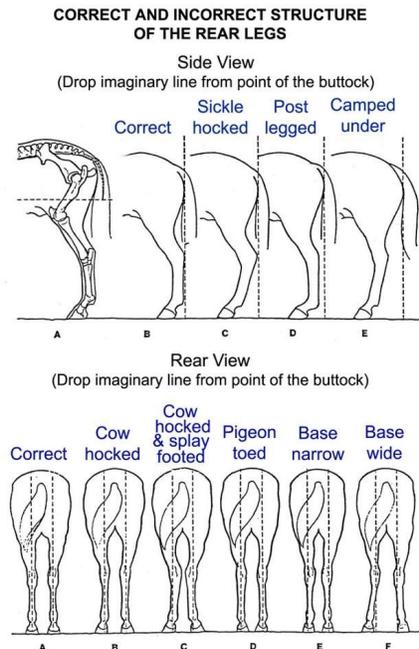
Conformation Faults of Forelegs



- Normal: this is the ideal conformation to look for in a horse's forelegs.
 - The motion of their feet will move in a straight forward pattern.
- Base-Wide (aka - wide based): when drawing a line straight down from a horse's neck the line would fall inside of the horse's legs.
 - The motion of their feet will swing inwards instead of going straight forward.
- Base-Narrow (aka - narrow based): when drawing a line straight down from a horse's neck the line would fall outside of the horse's legs.
 - The motion of their feet will paddle in an outward motion instead of going straight forward.
- Toe-out / Splay-footed: the horse appears to have the normal and ideal foreleg conformation, however at the hoof their toes are pointed outward instead of straight forward.
 - The motion of their feet will be similar to wide-base, but will be more pronounced due to a larger inward swing.
- Pigeon-toed: the horse also appears to have the normal and ideal conformation in this fault, however their toes are pointing in instead of straight forward.
 - The motion of their feet will be similar to narrow-based, but it will be more pronounced due to a larger outward paddle.
- Bowlegged: when the horse's leg appears bent out (like a drawn bow) at the knees.
 - Since the horse is bowed out at the knees they are most likely going to swing inwards.
- Knock-kneed: when the horse's knees look like they are going to touch ("knock") since they are bent in only at the knees.
 - Since the horse is knock-kneed they are most likely going to paddle because they will be trying to avoid hitting their knees against each other.
- Normal: this is the ideal conformation to look for in a horse's legs

- If the same applies to the front and rear, the hind hoof will fall into the mark made by the front hoof.
- Camped out: when drawing a line down from the point of the shoulder, the horse's whole foreleg will stand in front of the line.
 - If the horse is camped out in the front then the rear hoof will fall short of the front hoof, meaning they are short-strided. If the horse is camped out in the rear, then the rear hoof will fall short of the front hoof, meaning they are short-strided.
- Calf kneed: when the horse's knee will sit back behind the line drawn from the point of the shoulder.
- Camped under: when the horse's whole foreleg stands under the line that is drawn from the point of the shoulder.
 - If the horse is camped under in the front the the rear hoof will pass the front hoof, meaning they are long strided. If the horse is camped under in the rear, then the rear hoof will fall short of the front hoof, meaning they are short-strided.
- Buck kneed: when the horse's knee will sit in front of the line drawn from the point of the shoulder.

Rear conformation:



- Correct: when the horse's hind leg is directly in line with the line drawn from the point of the buttock.
 - The hind hoof will fall in the spot that the front hoof was in, meaning they have an even stride.
- Sickie hocked: when the horse's hind leg comes in from the line at the point of the buttock, but the hock joint is still touching the imaginary line.
 - The hind hoof will pass the mark of the front hoof, meaning they are long strided.
- Post legged: when the horse's canon is straight up and down causing the pastern to be less angled.
- Camped under: when the horse's hind legs are standing inside of the imaginary line, meaning that they are under the horse instead of supporting the horse.
 - The hind hoof will pass the mark of the front hoof, meaning they are long strided.
- Correct: when the horse's legs follow the imaginary lines straight down from the point of the buttock.
 - The motion of their feet will move in a straight forward pattern, meaning they are balanced in their travel.
- Cow hocked: when the horse's knees turn to the inside, almost as if they are going to touch or are touching.
 - Since the horse is cow-hocked they are most likely going to paddle because they will be trying to avoid hitting their knees against each other.
- Cow hocked and splay footed: the same definition applies for the cow hocked part, but now they also have their toes turned to the outside.
 - Since the horse is cow-hocked they are most likely going to paddle because they will be trying to avoid hitting their knees against each other.

- Pigeon toed: when the horse's legs appear to come down straight with the imaginary lines, but then their toes turn to the inside.
 - The motion of their feet will be similar to narrow-based, but it will be more pronounced due to a larger outward paddle.
- Base narrow (aka - narrow based): when the horse's legs stand inside of the imaginary lines.
 - The motion of their feet will paddle in an outward motion instead of going straight forward.
- Base wide (aka - wide based): when the horse's legs stands outside of the imaginary lines.
 - The motion of their feet will swing inwards instead of going straight forward.

Additional sites for reference:

- <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/horsediscovery/selection.html>
 - This site gives you a practice of judging actual horses via images and also some key explanations to look over. At the end it gives you the placings and an example of reasonings.
- <https://www.bc4h.bc.ca/content/Quizzes/Horse%20Judging%20Sub/index.html>
 - Although this site does not specifically practice judging, it goes over some key parts of the horse and vocab that you should know to help with your reasonings.
- <http://articles.extension.org/pages/72317/judging-horses-conformation-classes>
 - Another website that goes through the specific explanations of judging and conformation.
- http://mysrf.org/pdf/pdf_horse/hh3.pdf
 - Here is a very in depth website about judging and conformation.
- <http://www.humbleisd.net/cms/lib2/TX01001414/Centricity/Domain/4706/Halter%20Judging.pdf>
 - Several sets of images to practice judging on and checking the results.
- http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/4-H/4H-317/4H-317-pdf.pdf
 - Although this is a record book, you can use the information inside to practice. It can be used more as a workbook to practice than a record book.