Horse's love it when their owner's understand them.

Horsemanship is about the horse teaching you about yourself.

The Amazing Horse:

This page is mostly photos, graphs and charts about the horse. Some photos appear to be close to the same, but all explain some things differently. I hope it improves your understanding of the physical horse. Click the 100% button at the bottom right of this screen to enlarge pictures.
Horse Muscle Anatomy:
Structure of a Skeletal Muscle

- Bone
- Perimysium
- Epimysium
- Endomysium
- Tendon
- Blood vessel
- Muscle fiber
- Fascicle
Horse Digestive System:

- Pharynx
- Esophagus
- Liver
- Diaphragm
- Heart
- Right lateral colon
- Right ventral colon
- Cecum
- Right kidney
- Small intestine
- Rectum
- Base of cecum
- Small colon
- Right dorsal colon
- Right ventral colon

= Site of Primary problem

= Possible "Knock on" areas with a secondary problem
Horse Anatomy Pictures - Think Like a Horse - Rick Gore Horsemanship

Horse Skeleton

Knowledge is Power
Learn the Skeleton

Anterior Mesenteric Artery
St. vulgaris larvae (Large strongyles)

Eye
Thelazia (eyeworm)

Lungs
Parascaris equorum larvae
Dictyocaulus arnfieldi

Liver
St edentatus larva
Fasciola hepatica

Stomach
Habronema spp
(stomach worm)

Rectum
Oxyuris equi (pinworms)

Small Intestine
Strongyloides stercoralis (threadworm)
Anoplocephala (tapeworm)
Parascaris equorum (roundworm)

Ectoparasites
(may transmit diseases such as EIA, EEE, WEE, West Nile virus)
Ticks (Lyme disease)
Mites, Lice, Flies and Mosquitoes

Caecum & Colon
St. vulgaris, edentatus, equinus (Large strongyles)
Small Strongyles

**Horse Skeletal System:**
Hoof Parts:
If you click on the Moving Hoof above it will take you to a site with more information on the hoof.
The above picture shows what a hoof does naturally. This does not happen with a metal horse shoe!:(
**Tendons and Ligaments**

**FORELIMB**
- Extensor carpi radialis
- Lateral digital extensor tendon
- Common digital extensor tendon
- Superficial digital flexor tendon
- Inferior check ligament
- Deep digital flexor tendon
- Suspensory ligament
- Annular ligament
- Digital sesamoidean ligaments

**HINDLIMB**
- Cannon Bone
- Fetlock Joint
- Long Pastern
- Pastern Joint
- Short Pastern
- Extensor Process
- Pedal Bone
- Proximal Sesamoid Bones
- Coffin Joint
- Navicular Bone
- Palmer Process
This site has great real pictures of The Hoof.

Eye:
Heart:
**Head and Teeth:**

![Diagram of the equine heart with labeled parts: aorta, pulmonary veins, brachiocephalic trunk, cranial vena cava, right atrium, left atrium, right ventricle, left ventricle, coronary groove, interventricular groove, pectinate muscle, aortic valve, and chordae tendinae.](image)

![Images of a horse heart from left and right side views with labels for anatomical parts.](image)
If you click on the picture of Horse Ear Massage it will open a PDF file on horse massage.
1-front teeth 2-Nostril 3-Olfactory lining 4-Nerves from Olfactory to brain 5-Olfactory lobe 6-Brain Cortex 7-Hand Brain 8-Brain Cavity 9-Lower Jaw Bone 10-Lower Teeth 11-Lower Teeth 12-Touch Whiskers
Click on the photo of the brain to send you to a new page that answers the real size of a horse’s brain.
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Wavemouth
Overbite
Step Mouth
Normal Bite

The Language of the Ears

Alert and interested
Relaxed, bored or unwell
Sleepy, unwell, or submissive
Angry and aggressive

Drawn by: Amber Mills
**Horse Vision:**

- Binocular vision
- Monocular vision
- Blind area
- Marginal sight
Figure 2. Visual Field of the Horse
(Drawing by Gerrit Rietveld)

Horse Fetus Aborted:
Age of a Horse by Teeth

How to age a horse or tell a horse's age or to age a horse as it is called, we look at its teeth. Because a horse's lifestyle means it is almost continually grazing its teeth naturally grow continually and are worn down. Because of this their teeth gradually change throughout his life which allows us to tell its age.

Ageing a horse by looking at its teeth is very accurate up to the age of eight and after that it is only the approximate age. The adult horse has 40 teeth, which consists of 24 molars, twelve incisors and a male horse has four tusks. Sometimes the horse may also have four wolf teeth.

Ageing

One year: The horse has six new milk teeth in each jaw.

Two years: The horse has a complete set of milk teeth which are now worn.

Three years: The two center milk teeth are replaced by permanent teeth.

Four years: The next two milk teeth are replaced by permanent teeth.

Five years: The two corner milk teeth are replaced by permanent teeth. (Photo of 5 year old)

Six years: The corner incisors are in wear and you have the dental star present on the center incisors.

Seven years: You have a small hook appear on the top corner incisors.

Eight years: The hook and the black hollow centers on the teeth have both disappeared.

This is where aging becomes slightly less accurate.

Ten years: This is where the galvaynes groove appears on the top of the corner incisors and begins to grow downwards.

Thirteen: This is where a hook appears which very similar to the one which appears when the horse was seven.

Fifteen: By now the galvaynes groove has reached half way down the teeth. (Photo of 14 year old)

Twenty: The galvaynes groove has reached the bottom of the teeth.

Twenty five: The galvaynes groove has disappeared from the top half of the teeth. (Photo 26 year year old)

Another photo of 26 year old.
Medical and Vital Signs of a Horse:

Heart Rate: 30-44 beats per minute, too fast could mean recent exercise, pain, fever, heat stroke, shock or anxiety; too slow could mean shock, hypothermia, reaction to poison plants or medication.

Temperature: 99-101 degrees, high temp could be heat stroke, infection, recent exercise; low temp could be shock, hypothermia or unable to produce heat.

Capillary Refill Time: Press on a horse's gum's, they will go white or blanch, then they should return to pink or normal color within 1-2 seconds. If color returns too fast it could be high blood pressure, anxiety or nervousness. If color returns too slow it could be shock or poisoning.

Digital Pulse: This is found on the foot on the inside of the ankle, below the fetlock. It should hard to find, if it is too strong it could be related to foot problems and or laminitis.

Gum Color: The gum's should be pale or pink. Too pale could be anemia, a bluish tinge is normally a lack of oxygen. This could be from shock, colic, or heart or lung problems.

Gut Sounds: You should hear long and short rumbles and some gurgles. If you do not hear any sounds, this is not good and could be a sign of colic.

Respiratory Rate: 10-15 breaths per minute; too fast could be recent exercise, heat stroke, shock, respiratory problems or electrolyte imbalance; too slow could be hypothermia, shock, or reaction to medication.