

Front and Hind Leg Conformation of the Standardbred

Front Legs

A horse's legs should come out of his chest and present a straight line from the point of the shoulder, down the center of the knee, cannon, ankle and hoof. (figure 1)

A horse whose knees face slightly to the outside and whose feet splay out is considered "toed-out." These horses may also have a slightly narrower chest and may hit their knees. (figure 2)

A horse whose hooves point inward is considered "pigeon-toed." These horses may also have a slightly wider chest and will paddle their feet out. (figure 3)

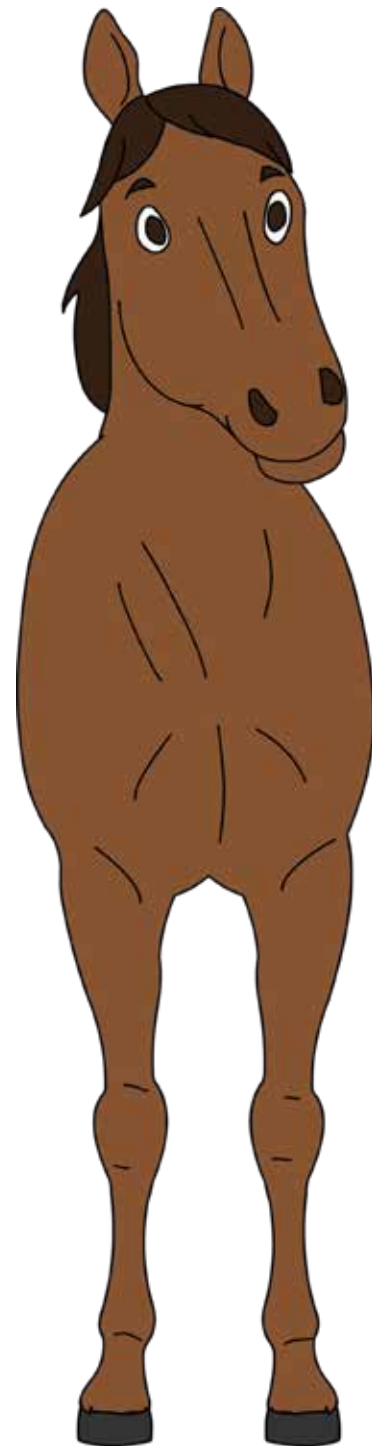


figure 1



figure 2



figure 3

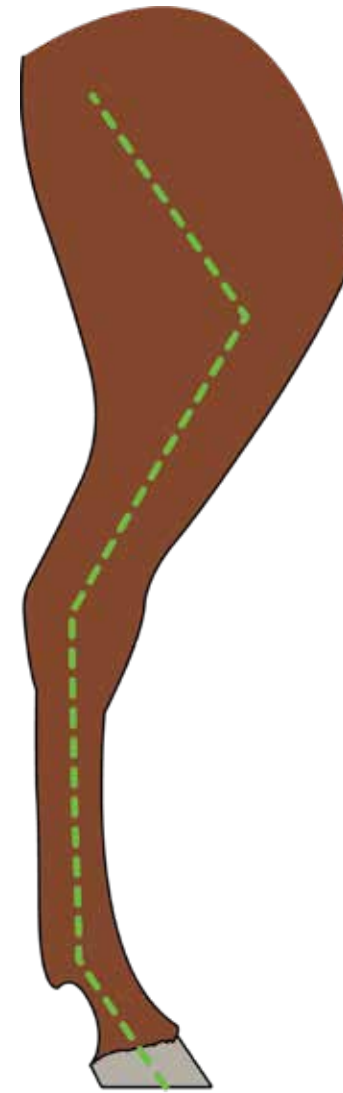


figure 4

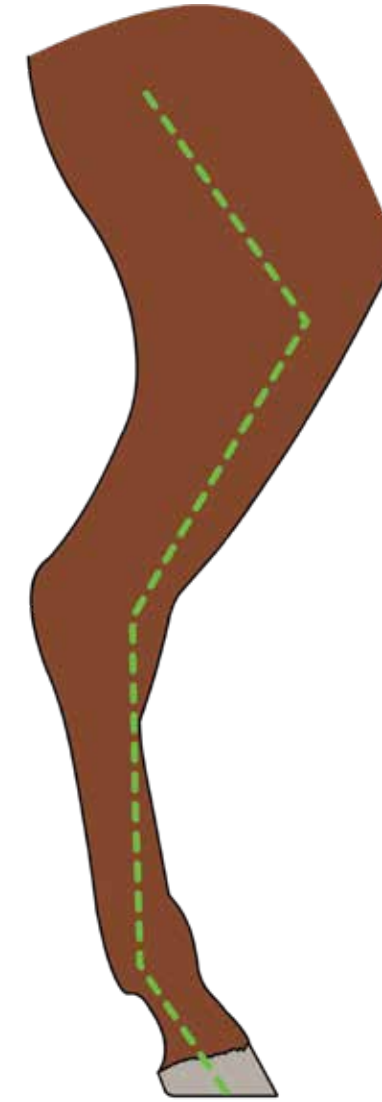


figure 5

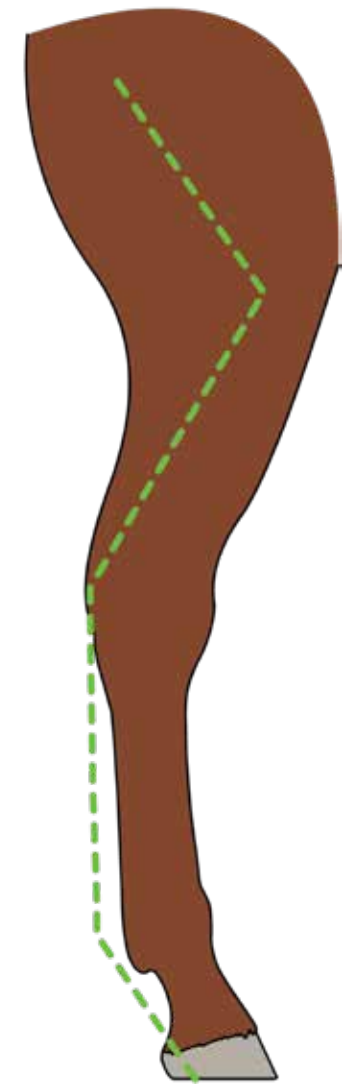


figure 6

Hind Legs

A horse with correct hind leg conformation will have optimum movement and thrust in its stride and be less prone to tendon and ligament strain and/or injury. (figure 4)

A horse whose hock has a severe angle to it is considered "sickle-hocked." He will look like he stands under himself from the hock down. These hocks may be prone to curbs—i.e., swelling below the hock. (figure 5)

A horse whose hock is too straight is considered "post-legged"; this condition will not give the horse the proper thrust in his stride. (figure 6)

Provided courtesy of the United States Trotting Association