

MEDICAL & ANATOMICAL GLOSSARY

HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED A REPORT FROM YOUR VETERINARIAN OR READ AN ARTICLE AND FOUND SOME UNFAMILIAR TERMS AND WERE TOO EMBARRASSED TO ASK WHAT THEY MEANT?

WE HAVE COMPILED A LIST OF SOME OF THE TERMS YOU MAY COME ACROSS....

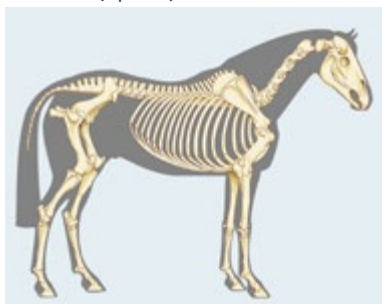
AEROPHAGIA Windsucking.

ANTERIOR Towards the front of the body.

APPENDICULAR SKELETON

Relating to forelimbs and hindlimbs.

AXIAL SKELETON Relating to bones of the skull and vertebral column (spine).



BORBORYGMUS Technical term for intestinal or gut sounds.



CAUDAL Towards the tail.

CRANIAL Refers to head/skull. Cranially means towards the head.

DISTAL Refers to structures furthest away from horse's body. For example, distal limb refers to structures below the knee / hock.

DORSAL

1. Refers to structures toward the spine or upper part of the body; and
2. Can also refer to the front aspect of the foreleg of a standing horse.

HELMINTHS Another term for internal parasites such as roundworms, tape worm or strongyles.



IDIOPATHIC Used in relation to a disease or condition which has an unknown cause.

INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM

Relates to skin, hair and hoof. Used when discussing body systems, for example the respiratory system, digestive system or integumentary system.

LATERAL Away from the centre line of the horse's body. Refers to structures which lie towards the outside.

MEDIAL Relating to the middle. The horse can be symmetrically divided into left and right halves and this is known as the midline plane.

METACARPAL Bones in the distal forelimb. The cannon bone is largest and known as the 3rd metacarpal, while the inside and outside splint bones are known as the 2nd and 4th respectively.

Confusingly there is no first metacarpal! This is because humans have 5 metacarpal bones in our hands, so scientists use the same labels to reflect similar structures, but the 1st and 5th metacarpals are absent in the horse.

METATARSAL As for metacarpal but relating to the hindlimb of the horse.

PALMAR Refers to back aspect of the forelimb.

PHALANX Primary digital bones of the foot -

- Distal Phalanx: pedal or coffin bone;
- First or Proximal Phalanx: long pastern bone; or
- Second or Middle Phalanx: short pastern bone.

PLANTAR This term refers to the rear facing structures of the hindlimb.

POSTERIOR Towards the rear of body.

PROXIMAL Refers to structures near the body. For example, proximal limb is the upper part of the leg.

PRURITUS Another word for itchy. *See Urticaria.*

PYREXIA Fever.

ROSTRAL Towards the nostrils.

URTICARIA Welts, swellings or hives on skin. Can be caused by insect bites, medication or allergies. *See Pruritus.*

VALGUS An angular limb deformity (ALD). Meaning shift outward of the distal limb. Most common is carpal valgus or "knock-knees."

VARUS An ALD (see above). Meaning shift inwards of distal limb from midline. Most common is fetlock varus or "toe-in".

VENTRAL Relating to underside or belly of horses.