The Canadian Morgan Horse Association Inc.

L'Association des Chevaux Morgan Canadiens Inc.

The Canadian Morgan Horse Association Youth

Horsemastership Program

The Sky is the Limit

This Book Belongs to: _____.

Youth Club:_____.

CMHA # _____.

Canadian Morgan Horse Association Youth Horsemastership Levels

Purpose

The purpose of the CMHAY is to instill in young people, pride in, enjoyment of, and knowledge about the Morgan Horse with the ultimate objective of educating future owners and breeders dedicated to preserving, improving, promoting and cherishing the Morgan breed. These objectives, incorporating the ideals and skills of horsemastership and management, sportsmanship, responsibility in citizenship, discipline and competence in leadership, will be pursued through active youth programs.

Rules

1. The program is open to CMHAY members, 21 and under, who are interested in learning more about the Morgan and safe horsemanship.
2. The six levels are:
    1. Let's Begin (10 & under)
    2. Up & Coming
    3. Stepping Higher
    4. Almost There
    5. The Sky is the Limit
    6. On Your Way
3. Members may work on the levels in their youth clubs or as individual members. All work must be completed with a Morgan Horse. All lessons in the level do not need to be completed at the same time, but members must complete one level before progressing to the next.
4. The CMHAY will award pins to members who pass each level. If all levels are completed a certificate will be awarded to the individual. The individual's names will also be mentioned in the Canadian Morgan Magazine.
5. Tests for the levels are to be administered by local club leaders or qualified person(s) designated by the club. Tests for the top three levels must be administered by CMHA approved horsemastership examiners. Official examiners must be appointed by the local club and approved of by the CMHA board and CMHA Youth Committee.

Instruction

Every youth member should have their own copy of the Horsemastership level booklet, which may be obtained through the CMHA Office, Box 286, Port Perry, ON, L9L 1A3. Individuals are responsible for keeping their own records but leaders should also keep a record of each member's progress. When all the lessons for a level have been passed, the youth leader or examiner should send in the achievement report form to the CMHA office. Upon approval, pins will be sent to the leader for presentation. It is suggested that the pins be awarded to the member(s) at an appropriate ceremony.

Lesson 1: Morgan Characteristics

Explain the ideal Morgan characteristics and some common conformational faults

The Morgan Horse Judging Standards is a great resource as well as any knowledgeable Morgan enthusiast can teach students what to look for in type and conformation. TYPE is the ideal or standard of perfection for the breed. A Morgan is distinctive for its stamina and vigor, personality and eagerness, and strong natural way of moving. CONFORMATION is the degree of perfection of the component parts and their relationship to each other. Correct Morgan type and conformation as described in the following pages is appropriate in each section of the Morgan division where conformation is considered. Judges seek the same correct Morgan type and conformation not only in the In-hand section but also in those Performance sections where rules indicate type and conformation to be considered.

<u>Morgan Characteristics</u>

A) The HEAD should be expressive with a broad forehead, large prominent eyes, a straight or slightly dished, short face, firm but fine lips, large nostrils, and well rounded jowls. The ears should be short and shapely, set rather widely apart and carried alertly. Mares may have slightly longer ears. The throatlatch is slightly deeper than other breeds and should be refined sufficiently to allow proper flexion at the poll and normal respiration.
B) The NECK should come out on top of an extremely well angulated SHOULDER with depth from the top of the withers to the point of shoulder. It should be relatively fine in relation to sex. It should be slightly arched and should blend with the withers and back. Ideally, the neck should have sufficient length and be set on high enough to allow the individual to set his head in a proper position while still maintaining his entire head and nose above the line of the withers. Judges must be cautious not to reward length of neck over proper placement of the neck and must keep in mind the balance and symmetry necessary to maintain the "Morgan look" which is predicated upon the way the neck grows out of the back. The top line of the neck should be considerably longer than the bottom line. The stallion should have more crest than a mare or gelding. An animal gelded late in life may resemble the stallion more closely.
C) The WITHERS should be well-defined and extend into the back in proportion to the angulations of the shoulder.

D) The BODY should be compact with a short back, close coupling, broad loins, deep flank, well sprung ribs, long and well muscled croup with tail arched high and carried gracefully and straight. A weak, low or long back is a severe fault. The Morgan horse should not be higher at the rump than at the withers.

E) The STIFLE should be placed well forward and low in the flank area. It is imperative that weak or loose stifles be faulted.

F) The LEGS should be straight and sound with short cannons, flat bone, and an appearance of overall substance with refinement. The forearm should be relatively long in proportion to the cannon. The pasterns should have sufficient length and angulations to provide a light, springy step.

G) The structure of the rear LEGS is of extreme importance to the selection of a long lasting equine athlete. Judges must take special care to severely fault individuals displaying weakness in this area. Any sign of poor angulations of the hock such as sickle hock or cow hocks should be considered severe fault. Lack of proper flexion of the hock is cause for very close examination of the entire structure of the rear legs and should not be tolerated in breeding stock or show ring winners.

H) The FEET should be in proportion to the size of the horse, round, open at the heel, with concave sole and hoof of dense structure.

I) Viewed from the front, the CHEST should be well developed. The front legs should be perpendicular to the ground and closely attached to the body.

J) Viewed from the side, the TOP LINE represents a gentle curve from the poll to the back, giving the impression of the neck sitting on top of the withers rather than in front of them, continuing to a short straight back and a relatively level croup rounding into a well muscled thigh. The tail should be attached high and carried well arched. At maturity, the croup should NOT be higher that the withers. The underline should be long and the body deep through heart, girth and flanks. The extreme angulations of the shoulder result in the arm being a little more vertical than other breeds, placing the front legs slightly farther forward on the body. The front legs should be straight and perpendicular to the ground. The rear cannons should be perpendicular to the ground when points of the hock and buttocks are in the same vertical plum line.

K) Viewed from the rear, the CROUP should be well rounded, THIGHS and GASKINS well muscled. Legs should be straight. The gaskin should be relatively long in relation to the cannon. The Morgan should portray good spring of rib and well rounded buttocks. Slab-sided individuals should be faulted.

L) The height ranges from 14.1 to 15.2 hands with some individuals under or over.

M) Horses must be serviceably sound – i.e. must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind or complete loss of sight in either eye.
N) Stallions 2 years and over must have all the fully developed physical characteristics of a stallion. Mature stallions must be masculine in appearance. Mares must be feminine in appearance.

The most exciting attributes of the Morgan horse are his presence and personality. These include:

1. Animation
2. Stamina
3. Vigor
4. Alertness
5. Adaptability
6. Attitude
7. Tractability

Common Conformation Faults

Faults of the head:

1. Coarse or plain head
2. long and coarse ears
3. lop-ears
4. ears set too far forward
5. pig eyes
6. any impairment of vision
7. parrot-mouth
8. monkey mouth
9. teacup muzzle
10. coarse muzzle
11. narrow, long head
12. roman nose
13. dished face
14. small nostrils
15. broken wind – respiratory distress
16. stallions lacking masculinity
17. mares lacking femininity

The typical Morgan head is one of the most distinguishing characteristics of the breed. Any faults can detract from the horse and they should be penalized accordingly.

Faults of the Neck:

1. Ewe neck
2. fallen crest
3. coarse throat latch
4. short necked
5. neck bowed on the bottom
6. lacking arch
7. swan neck
8. bull neck

Faults of the neck can interfere with flexion at the poll and detract from the beauty and efficiency of the horse.

Faults of the Wither:

1. Too short
2. too straight
3. too loosely attached to the body
4. mutton withers
5. camel withers

Good withers are very important. Deficiency of the withers should be penalized according to severity.

Faults of the Shoulder:

1. Too short
2. Too straight/upright
3. Too slopping
4. Too loosely attached to the body

Faults of the Body:

1. Low backed
2. Flat ribbed
3. Roached backed
4. Long backed
5. Weak coupling
6. Shallow bodied
7. Hollow chested
8. Lack of depth through the heart, girth and flank

Any of these faults seriously detract from good Morgan type and efficiency and should be penalized

Faults of the Croup:

1. High croup
2. Short croup
3. Insufficient muscling
4. Steep croup
5. Low tail set
6. Overly long croup

A croup higher than the withers is usually associated with a low back. A short croup interferes with the length of stride behind. Insufficient muscling inhibits propulsion. A steep croup and low tail set detract from the overall balance of the individual horse. These faults should be penalized according to their severity.

Faults, blemishes and unsoundness of the legs and feet:

1. Evidence of founder
2. Bone spavin
3. Ring bone
4. Stringhalt
5. Off set knees
6. Calf knees
7. Over at the knees
8. Bow legs
9. Knock knees
10. Tied in below the knees
11. Long cannons
12. Round bones
13. Straight pasterns
14. Pigeon toed
15. Splayed footed
16. Contracted heels
17. Side bone
18. Base wide or base narrow
19. Sickle hocked
20. Cow hocked
21. Coarse hocks
22. Bog spavin
23. Curb
24. Capped hocks
25. Show boil
26. Wind puff
27. Splint
28. Dished foot

Each of the above faults, blemishes and unsoundness's interferes with the normal function and or appearance of a horse. The degree of severity should be considered and penalized accordingly by the judge.

Additional faults:

1. Rat tail
2. Mane and or tail rubbed out
3. Rough coat

A full, natural mane and tail and a smooth glossy coat enhance the appearance of the animal.

In-hand classes

It is imperative that height of action should not take precedence over correct way of going. Emphasis shall be on type and conformation with consideration given to the horse's ability to move correctly on the line.

1. The walk should be rapid, elastic, flat footed, with a 4-beat cadence, with the accent on flexion in the pastern.
2. The trot should be a 2-beat diagonal gait, animated, elastic, square and collected. The rear action should be in balance with that front.
3. Emphasis should be placed on the horse's ability to perform as described in 1 & 2 above, regardless of the type of shoeing or the type of training the horse has received.
4. All horses should exhibit good manners in the ring. The way of going and presence are equally distinctive as the type itself.

5. Stress should be on quiet, orderly presentation of the horse. He should move straight and true on the line, without a tendency to break gait or resist the handler. Individuals, who consistently break, jump or buck when being shown on the line should be suspected of structural faults and often lack a balanced way of going. At the judge's discretion they may be asked to perform again, however, judges should avoid placing horses unable to perform a trot on the line without repeated breaking, bucking or lunging.

Suggested procedures for judging In-hand classes:

1. Horses enter the ring at a trot and line up at the discretion of the judge.
2. Not more than 2 handlers, each of whom may have one whip, shall be allowed in the ring to show each horse in In-hand classes.
3. Horses are to be judge individually standing, than at a walk and trot on the line along the rail and must be serviceably sound.
4. Horses must stand squarely on all 4 feet with the front legs perpendicular to the ground. Rear legs may be placed slightly back. Judges may ask exhibitors to move the hind legs up under the horse for inspection. Rubber bands inconspicuously applied to the forelock are permitted. Curb bits are prohibited in weanling and yearling classes.
5. The final placing's of horses may be made evident to the spectators by placing them head to tail in their proper order.
6. The Champion and Reserve Champion shall be selected from horses that have placed first or second in their qualifying classes. All qualified horses are considered to be equal at the start of the championship class.

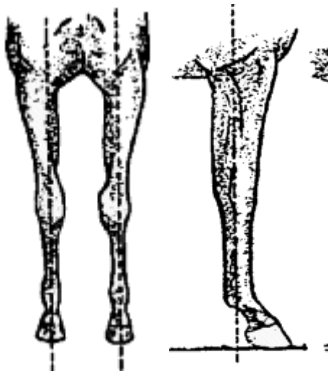
Lesson 2: Blemishes & Unsoundness

Explain the difference between a blemish and unsoundness and give examples of each

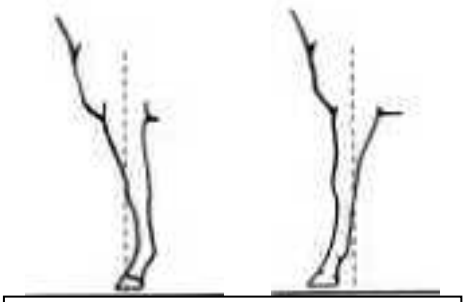
Blemishes are a physical defect NOT causing lameness. These blemishes don't interfere with the sight, wind or soundness of the horse, but they may be unsightly and possibly diminish its value. Unsoundness is a defect in form or function that interferes with the usefulness of the horse. Unsoundness can be considered a blemish if the lameness disappears. Conversely, a blemish can become unsoundness if the initial swelling becomes calcified and interferes with movement of a joint. Unsoundness that is the result of faulty conformation is most serious because it will continue to occur and may be passed down to offspring.

Conformational Blemishes & Unsoundness

Ideal Forelimb – From a front view a vertical line from the point of shoulder should fall in the center of the knee, cannon, pastern and foot. From a side view a line drawn perpendicular to the ground should bisect the foreleg all the way from the shoulder to the heel of the foot.

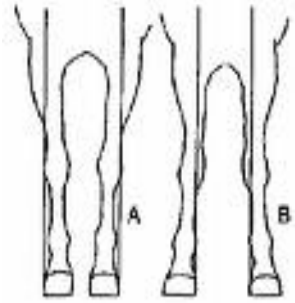


Standing under – When the entire forelimb, from the elbow down is placed behind the vertical line when viewed from the side.



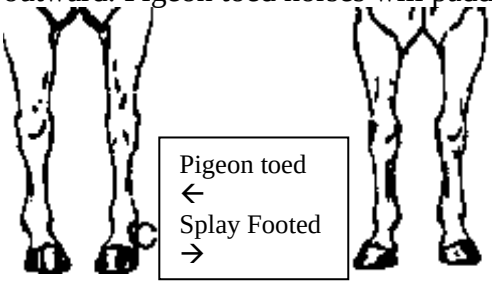
Camped out – When the entire forelimb is too far forward of that vertical line when viewed from the side.

Base Narrow (A)– when looking at the horse from the front the feet are very close together often due to a wide chest.



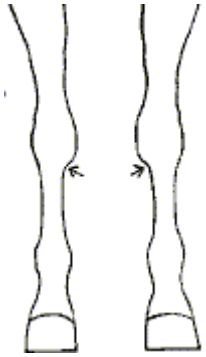
Base Wide (B) – When looking at the horse from the front, the feet are too far apart from each other.

Pigeon Toed –Pigeon toed horses stand with toes pointing inward and heels outward. Pigeon toed horses will paddle.

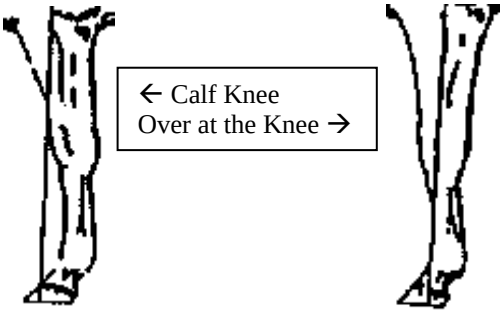


Splay Footed – A Splay footed horse turns out. In this case the heels are turned in. Splay footed horses will wing.

Off-set (Bench) Knees – When viewing the horse's limbs from the front, the cannon bones appear to be set too far to either side of the knee.

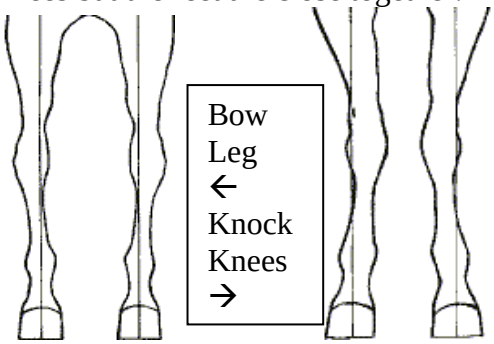


Calf Knees – When viewing the horse's knees from the side, the horse's knees are set too far back. This is directly opposite to buck-kneed or over at the knees.



Over at the Knees – When viewing the horse's knees from the side, the knee extends out beyond the cannon bone.

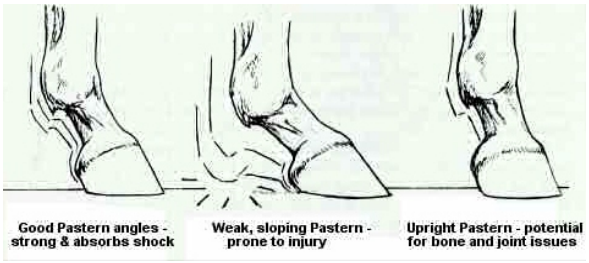
Bow Legs – Looking directly at the legs from the front, the animal is wider at the knees but the feet are close together.



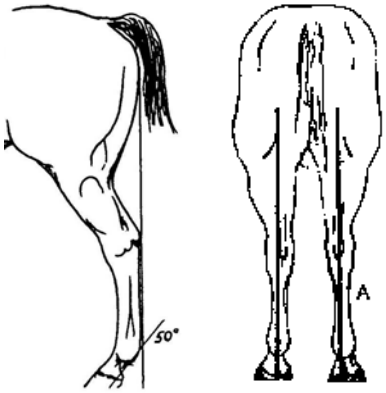
Knock Knees - Looking directly at the legs from the front, the animal is narrower at the knees but the feet are wider apart.

Tied in below the Knees – When viewed from the side, the flexor tendons (run behind the leg) appear to be too close to the cannon bone just below the knees. A heavy fetlock may give the appearance of tied in knees even though the condition is not actually present.

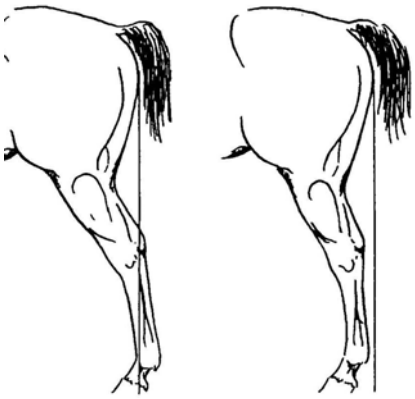
Straight/Upright – Long/Slopping Pasterns - The pastern should be long and slopping to a certain degree rather than short and upright. Straight pasterns decrease the amount of shock absorption, but long slopping pasterns increase the risk of the fetlock hitting the ground.



Ideal Hind limb – From the rear view, a vertical line from the point of buttock should fall in the center of hock, cannon, pastern and foot. From the side the vertical line from the point of buttock should touch the rear edge of the cannon from hock to fetlock and meet the ground far behind the heel.



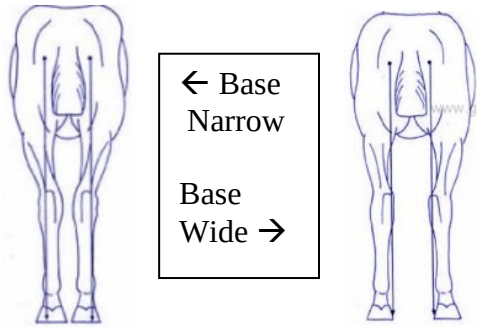
Standing Under – When the vertical line will descend and end far behind the heel of the hind foot.



Camped out | Standing under

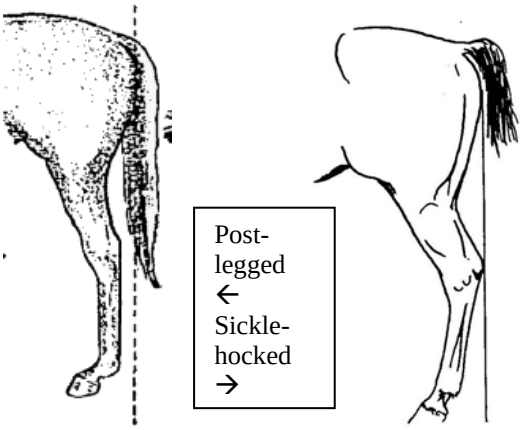
Camped out – When the hind limb from the hock down is placed behind the vertical line. The line will touch the ground in front of or at the hind toe.

Base Narrow – When viewed from the rear, the hind feet are very close together.



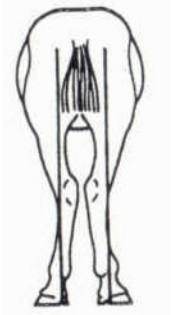
Base wide – When viewed from the rear the hind feet are placed further away from each other.

Post Legged – When viewed from the side a post legged horse appears to have a straight hind limb. This results from a lack of angulation at the stifle and hock joints.

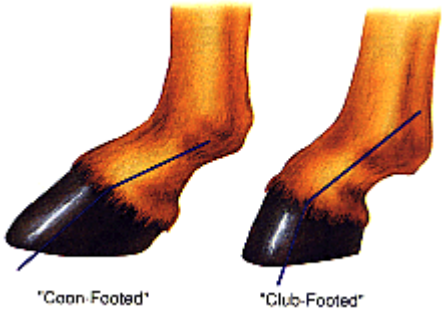


Sickle-Hocked - This describes a crooked hind leg. The leg cuts in under the hock, which is a result of excessive hock angulation.

Cow-Hocked – The rear legs of the horse bend inward at the hocks with the toes pointing outward.



Club Footed – When the slope of the front of the hoof exceeds 60 degrees. These horses tend to have long, upright heels with short strides.

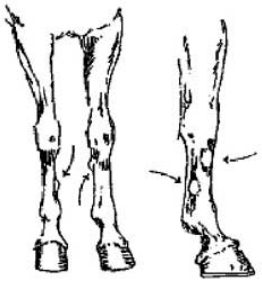


Coon Footed – usually only seen in the rear feet, when the pastern angle doesn't match the foot angle creating a broken axis at the coronary band. The pastern angle slopes back away from the front of the hoof.

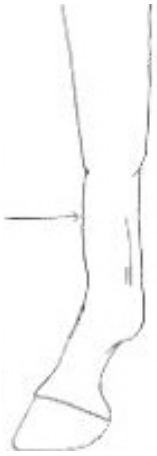
Dished Foot – The front of the foot turns upward.

<u>Blemishes and Unsoundness of the forelimb</u>

Splints - These are abnormal bony growths found on the cannon bone, usually on the inside surface. They are most common on the front legs. Splints are most often a result of trauma or concussion. Symptoms include swelling and heat. They may enlarge and interfere with a ligament and cause irritation and lameness. Treatment includes rest and cold application. When treated early they will disappear.



Bucked Shins – A bucked shin is an enlargement or calcification on the front of the cannon between the knee and fetlock giving the leg a 'bucked' appearance. They are most common on the front legs. They are caused by trauma or concussion especially in young horses. Symptoms include swelling, heat, pain and lameness. Rest, medications, hydrotherapy, physical therapy and topical medications are used to treat.



Bowed Tendon – A bowed tendon is an inflammation and enlargement of the flexor tendon at the back of the cannon on the forelimb. Causes include a severe strain of the tendon. Symptoms include swelling, heat, pain, and a flexed knee position to relieve weight off the back of the leg. Treatment includes rest and cold application. A bow can be high, mid or low.

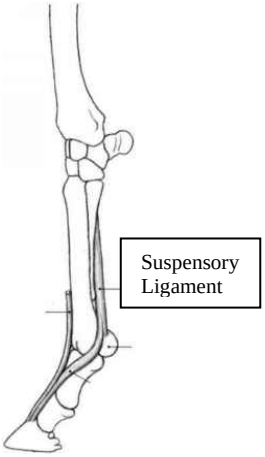
Ring bone – A bony growth on the pastern bone generally affecting the forefeet, sometimes affecting the hind feet, resulting from trauma. The condition often causes swelling and lameness, accompanied by a stiff ankle. It may be hereditary but may also be caused by severe strain, blows, sprains or improper shoeing. Treatment consists of cold applications and rest for temporary relief as well as corrective shoeing. Permanent relief is attempted by vets in the form of meds, surgery or severing the nerve in the area. Ringbone can be high or low, surrounding a joint or within the joint itself.

Side Bone – These are ossified lateral cartilages immediately above and toward the rear quarter of the hoof. They occur most commonly in the forefeet. Lameness may or may not be present. This condition maybe genetic or may be caused by working young horses on hard ground. Side bones may also develop following sprains, cracks or other injuries. Treatment varies. Temporary relief may be obtained with cold water application or blistering agents.

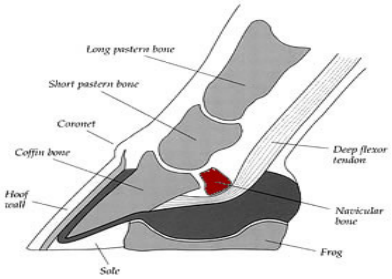
Osselets – a bony outgrowth on the front surface of the fetlock joint. A sprain of the attached ligament causes the inflammation as well as heat, swelling, pain and lameness. Rest and cold application are used to treat.

Sesamoiditis – Inflammation of the sesamoid bones, which are located at the back of the fetlock joint. Causes include trauma or strain to the fetlock area. Symptoms include swelling and lameness. Treatment includes prolonged rest and cold application.

Suspensory Ligament Injury – The suspensory ligament is one of the main supporting structures in a horse's leg. It is very important for shock absorption, but is subjected to great amounts of stress. The suspensory ligament originates just below the knee and travels down the back of the cannon to attach on the long pastern bone. Two ligaments split off and attach to the sesamoid bones just prior to the fetlock. There is also a check ligament that runs from the suspensory to the deep digital flexor tendon. Suspensory injuries are serious and can be career ending. Sprains, splints, sesamoisitis and fractures can cause a suspensory injury. Symptoms vary depending on the seriousness of the injury but pain, heat, swelling, lameness and non-weight bearing of the affected leg is common. Treatment includes rest, cold application, meds and possible immobilization of the limb.



Navicular Syndrome – Navicular syndrome is any injury or degeneration of the navicular bone that lies with in the foot. The most common cause is repeated concussion. Symptoms include shorten stride, tendency to go up on its toes and increased risk for stumbling. Treatment includes corrective shoeing and meds.



Carptitis (Popped Knees) – An enlargement of the knee joint as a result of inflammation to the joint capsule, knee bones or ligaments. Carpitis results from trauma, over-extension of the knee and concussion. Symptoms include swelling, lameness and pain. Treatment includes rest, meds and physical therapy.

Shoe Boil – This is a soft swelling caused by an irritation at the point of elbow. The 2 most common causes of this blemish are injury from a horse shoe while lying down and injury from contact with the ground. If discovered early, the blemish can be corrected.

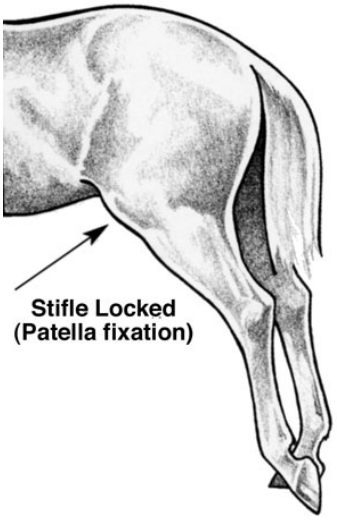
Wind puffs – also known as windgall, these puffy enlargements are located immediately above the pastern joints on the fore or rear legs. This results from too fast or too hard work. Cold applications and rest are recommended.

Blemishes and Unsoundness of the Hind limb

Knocked-down Hip – When viewed from the rear, one hip seems lower than the other. This is due to a fracture to the point of hip. Symptoms include swelling, heat, pain and acute or subtle lameness. Treatment includes rest and medication. The appearance of the knocked down hip may remain even after the fracture heals.

Gonitis (Stifle lameness) – any lameness originating from within the stifle joint is referred to as gonitis. The stifle joint is the largest, weakest and most complex joint in the horse. The joint is the primary cause of numerous conditions resulting in lameness of the hind end.

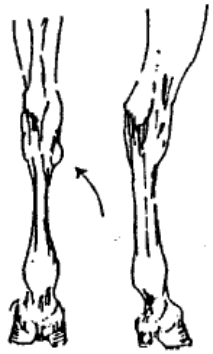
Upward Fixation of the Patella – A type of gonitis is upward fixation of the patella. This is when the patella locks and causes the leg to remain in the extended position. Symptoms include the stifle and hock not being able to flex and the foot is dragged. Backing the horse can unlock the patella. This condition is caused by straight hind limb conformation or excessive loading of the stifle joint. Young horses may outgrow this condition. Other treatment includes strengthening the quadriceps muscles or a desmotomy of the ligament causing the fixation of the patella.



Stringhalt – This condition is characterized by excessive flexing of the hind legs, sometimes to the point of the foot hitting the abdomen. It is most recognizable when backing a horse. The cause of the condition is unknown. It may be relieved somewhat by surgery on the affected tendon.

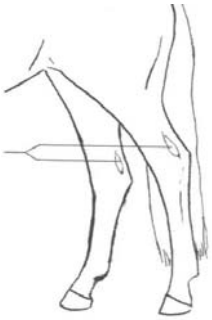

Characteristic overflexion of the hindlimb as seen in stringhalt

Bone Spavin (Jack Spavin) – This refers to a bony enlargement that appears on the inside and front of the hock at the point where the base of hock tapers into the cannon part of the leg. It is one of the most destructive conditions affecting the usefulness of a horse. Lameness and limited hock flexion is most evident when the animal is used following rest. Faulty hocks, excessive concussion, trauma or hereditary predisposition appear to cause bone spavin. Rest and physical therapy modalities are the most important treatments. Vets will use medications or steroids or sometimes surgery to relieve the condition.

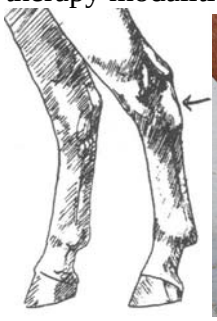


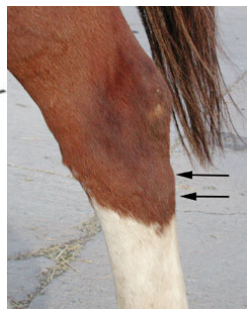
Bog Spavin – This is a filling in of fluid in the natural depression on the inside and front of the hock caused by strain, trauma or poor hind limb conformation. Bog spavin rarely interferes with the usefulness of the horse. Treatment usually includes cold applications, blistering or steroids.

Thorough-pin - This is a filling in of fluid in the natural depression on the outside of the hock. The fluid can actually be pushed back and forth between the outside and inside depressions. Causes include poor hind limb conformation or trauma/sprain. Treatment includes cold water applications. This condition rarely causes lameness.



Curb – A curby hock is a swelling or fullness of a ligament that runs down the rear of the hock and cannon. Causes include conformational defects or trauma. Lameness occurs temporarily then abates with rest. Treatment includes rest, steroids, hydrotherapy and physical therapy modalities.



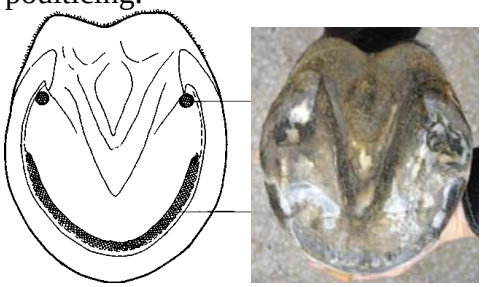


Capped Hock – an enlargement at the point of hock, usually caused by bruising or trauma is known as a capped hock. Trauma such as kicking a wall causes inflammation around the hock. Treatment includes cold application and physical therapy modalities.

Blemishes and unsoundness of the Hooves

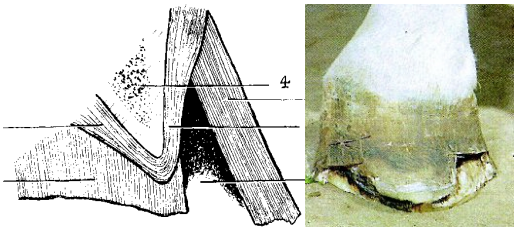
Laminitis or Founder – This is a disease of the foot in which blood flow to the foot is reduced. It may be caused by overeating, overwork, drinking large amounts of cold water while horse is still hot, inflammation of the uterus following foaling, septicemia or constant concussion of the foot on hard surfaces. It is very painful and is often incurable as the tissues are permanently damaged. Horses suffering from a bad case of laminitis will groan, sweat and refuse to stand. Treatment includes medications, bandaging and physical therapy.

Corns – A corn is a bruise to the sole between the hoof wall and the bar caused by pressure from the shoe. Causes include poor foot structure, poor fitting shoes or poor trimming. Corns are accompanied by lameness and heat. Treatment includes trimming the area around the corn, corrective shoeing and poulticing.



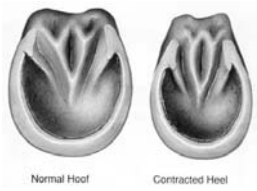
Thrush – Thrush is a disease that affects the cleft of the frog. It is caused by a bacterial infection often because of neglected feet or poor shoeing preventing pressure on the frog. Symptoms include an offensive smell and possible lameness. Treatment includes trimming the frog, washing the frog with soap and water, soaking the foot in an Epsom salt bath and application of thrush medication.

Seedy toe – Seedy toe refers to the cavities that form in the soft horn between the inner and outer parts of the hoof wall affecting the laminae of the foot. Injury to the coronet, pressure from a shoe clip, trauma to the hoof wall or poor shoeing can result in seedy toe. Symptoms include lameness, a hollow cavity filled with dark, cheesy material (when shoe is removed), infection of cavity and in severe cases protrusion of the coffin bone. Treatment includes stimulating new growth in the area, antiseptics to fill the cavity and avoidance of pressure of the cavity with a shoe.



Bruised Sole – The sole of the foot is bruised from hard surfaces or stones. Lameness and discolouration of the sole is seen. Treatment includes warm Epsom salts baths, poulticing and corrective shoeing.

Contracted Heels – This condition most often occurs in the fore feet and is characterized by drawing in or contracting at the heels. Sometimes the tendency is hereditary, but often improper shoeing aggravates the condition. Paring, removal of shoes, or use of special shoes constitute the best treatment.



Cracks – A crack is a vertical splitting of the hoof wall either ground up or coronet down. They can be sand, quarter, toe or heel cracks depending on the location on the hoof. Cracks vary in length and depth. Causes include poor hoof structure, injury to the coronet, concussion or neglected hoof care. Symptoms vary depending on the crack, but lameness and infection will result if the crack is deep enough. Treatment includes medications, corrective shoeing, and special shoeing to close or seal the cracks such as acrylic.

Sole Abscesses – A sole abscess is a bacterial infection resulting in a pus-filled cavity within the sole of the foot. It is a very common cause of lameness. It is caused by a puncture wound to the sole. Treatment includes cleaning and exposing the abscess, establishing drainage, foot baths in warm antiseptic solution, poulticing and corrective shoeing.

Gravel – Gravel refers to the migration of a small foreign object from the white line of the hoof to the coronary band. Any opening in the white line can permit an infection within the laminae, especially within dry feet. Symptoms include heat, lameness, black areas along the white line and a foul smelling odour. Treatment includes establishing a drainage tract, warm antiseptic foot baths, poulticing and corrective shoeing.

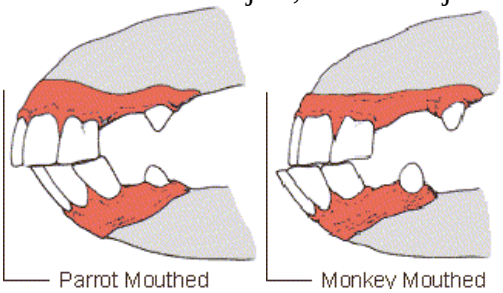
Quittor – Chronic, purulent inflammation and infection of the lateral hoof cartilages is known as quittor. It is caused by trauma, puncture, bruising or lacerations near the coronary band. Symptoms include heat, pain and purulent discharge. These discharge tracts often heal then reopen. Lameness may or may not occur. Treatment is often difficult. Drainage should be established and dead tissue should be removed. The wound is then packed with sterile bandaging.

Quittor

Other Unsoundness

Eyes – blindness, cloudy, cataracts, moon blindness, conjunctivitis

Mouth – overshot jaw, undershot jaw

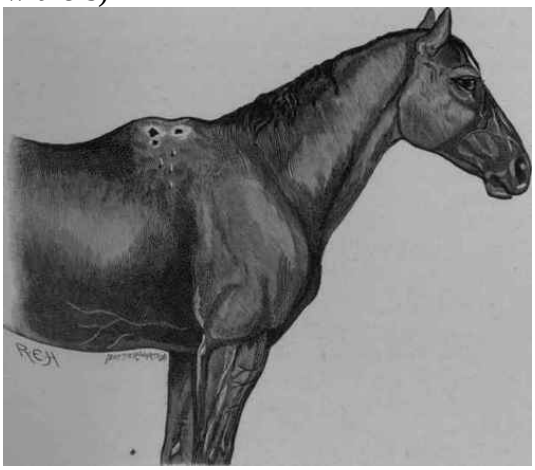


Parrot Mouthed Monkey Mouthed

Nostrils – discharge indicating infection

Poll – poll evil (infection and inflammation of a bursa at the poll)

Withers – fistulous withers (infection and inflammation of a bursa at the withers)



Lesson Three: Judging

Judge Morgans In Hand (Mares, Stallions & Geldings) and in performance (Western Pleasure, English Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure and Pleasure Driving) at a designated horse show, youth event or Morgan farm.

This outline is intended to serve youth leaders as a simple framework in preparing your students for judging contests.

Qualifications of a good Horse Judge
It is essential that a good horse judge possess certain characteristics. It is also essential that we begin to train our future horse show judges now for a practiced eye that takes years to develop.

When working with your future judges, keep the following in mind:

1. **Knowledge of the parts of the horse** – Students should master the language that describes and locates the different parts of a horse. It is important to know which of these parts are of major importance.
2. **Standard of perfection –** The successful horse judge must know what he is about. He must have in mind an ideal or standard of perfection.
3. **Sound judgment and keen observer –** The top judge possesses the ability to observe both conformation and performance, along with ability to spot defects and to weigh and evaluate the relative importance of the various good and bad features.
4. **Honesty and courage –** The good horse judge must, above all, be able to place and justify his/her placement. The only possible way to do this is by knowing your standard, knowing what you believe to be correct and right and standing up for your convictions. Honesty and integrity are absolutely necessary for it takes considerable courage to place a class of animals without regard to
    - **a.** winning in previous shows
    - **b.** ownership
    - **c.** public applause
5. **Logical procedure in examining –** One of the mistakes beginner judges make is "to get so close to the trees that he/she fails to see the forest." Good judgment procedure must become organized and systematic:
    - **a.** Look at the big picture
    - **b.** See the animal in action
    - **c.** Inspect the horse up close.

    Judges should have a logical method of viewing horses from all directions. Some logical method of viewing action and unsoundness is also needed. In this manner a judge avoids overlooking something.
6. **Tact –** A judge must always be honest and direct but he/she must use tact. State simply what you like about a horse and what you would like to see improved.

Do's & Don'ts for Judging

1. Keep numbers straight
2. Keep in a position of vantage. Do not keep turning around in a

performance class nor keep you head buried in a note book
3. Make early placings on big things
4. Make concise notes that will help you assist you in recalling why you placed the class the way you did
5. When giving reasons, be poised and look the contest judge in the eye
6. State reasons clearly, and with conviction and confidence
7. Give reasons in a logical sequence
8. Use proper terminology by reading the leading books on judging

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Some conformational faults in Morgans are:
A.
B.
C.
D.

List some unsoundnesses:
A.
B.
C.
D.

Orally explain 1 unsoundness above, why they occur and treatment.

List 4 qualifications of a good judge:
A.
B.
C.
D.

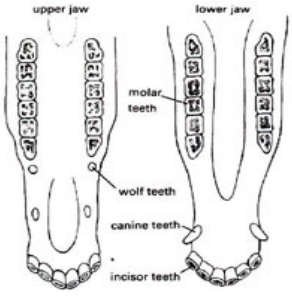
Name some do's and don'ts in judging:
A.
B.
C.
D.

Orally review what to look for when viewing a horse from:
A. Front
B. Side
C. Rear
D. In motion

Lesson Four: Teeth

Learn to determine approximate age of horses by examining the incisor teeth.

One of the most accurate ways to estimate a horse's age is by examining the wear and appearance of the teeth. The teeth grow continuously over its lifetime. The teeth wear down at the same rate as the teeth grow out. This causes changes in appearance, shapes and markings of the teeth.
A foal is born with both deciduous and permanent teeth pre-set in the jaws. Baby teeth are smaller and whiter with smaller roots. The permanent teeth begin to erupt at about 2.5 years of age through the gum line, pushing the baby teeth out. The remains of the baby teeth are called caps. When all permanent teeth are present the horse is said to have a full mouth.
The incisor teeth erupt in pairs, with the central incisors first followed by the intermediate and then the corner incisors.



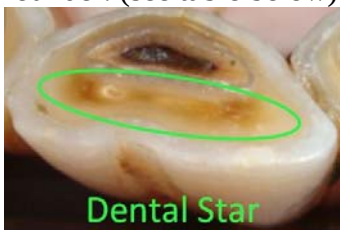
The Sky's the Limit

There are factors which affect a horse's teeth (feed, disease, and environment) but in general, the following characteristics will be useful to you when approximating the age of a horse.

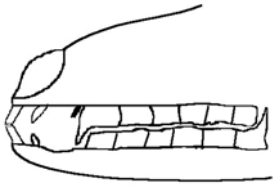
1. The eruption of deciduous (baby) incisors (see table below)

2. The eruption of permanent incisors (see table below)
3. Cups – Cups appear as a hollow oval on the meeting surface of the permanent incisors. Cups are present in the permanent teeth when they emerge and disappear at specific ages as the teeth wear down (see table below)

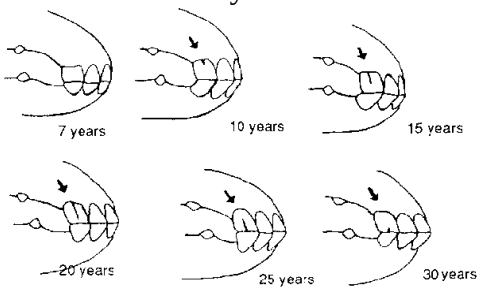
4. Dental Star – As the tooth wears down enough, a central pulp cavity is exposed and a dental star appears. The dental star begins as a dark line in front of the cups. As the cup disappears, the star becomes larger and rounder. (see table below)



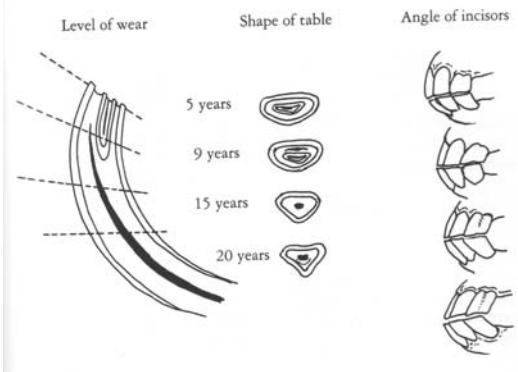
5. The 7 year hook – A hook appears on the upper corner incisor at age 7 and disappears at 8 years.



6. Galvayne's Groove - A vertical groove that appears on the upper corner incisor at the gum line at about 10 years. It proceeds downward until about 20 years of age and then recedes until the horse is about 30 years old.



7. Shape and angle of Incisors – The shape and angle of the incisors change as they wear down. In younger horses the tooth is oval in shape and vertical. Between 8 & 13 the tooth becomes rounder in shape and they slant forward. In old age, the teeth become triangular in shape and teeth slant forward at an acute angle.

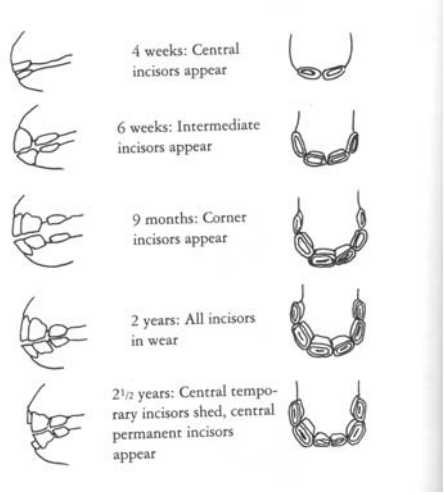


8. Shape of Lower Jaw – young horses have a thick lower jaw that may appear lumpy due to the presence of permanent teeth. Very old horses' jaws appear lean and hallow as the roots of the teeth disappear.

Dental Eruption Table

Deciduous (Baby) Teeth

Central incisors	birth - 1 week
Intermediate incisors	4-6 weeks
Corner Incisors	6-9 months
Premolars	birth – 2 weeks

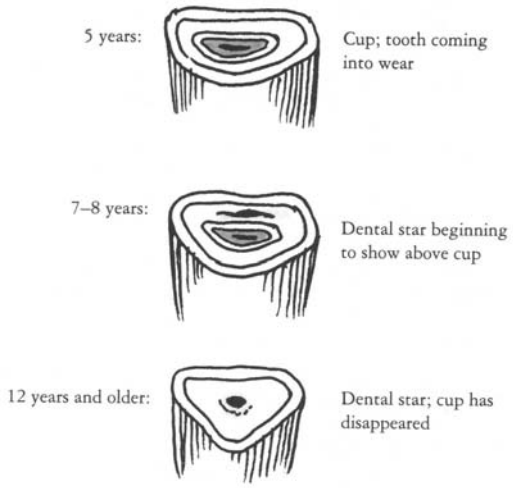


Permanent Teeth

Central Incisors	2.5 years
Intermediate incisors	3.5 years
Corner Incisors	4.5 years
Canine (males)	3.5 – 5 yrs
1st premolar (wolf tooth)	6 months – 3 years
2nd premolar	2-3 years
3rd premolar	3 years
4th premolar	4 years
1st molar	9 months-1 year
2nd molar	2 years
3rd molar	3-4 years

Dental Cup Disappearance

Lower Central	6 years
Lower Intermediate	7 years
Lower Corner	8 years
Upper Central	9 years
Upper Intermediate	10 years
Upper Corner	11 years



Dental Star Appearance

Central	8 years
Intermediate	9 years
Corner	10-12 years

Lesson Five: Student Activities

Participate in 8 of the following activities. A letter from the judge/manager/organizer of the event must be submitted if the examiner was not present for the activity.

1. Successfully complete a prescribed course of 8 fences at a height of 2 feet or higher.
2. Ride with a Hunt/mock Hunt.
3. Place 1st or 2nd in an equitation class with 5 or more entries.
4. Place 1st or 2nd in a driving or carriage class with 4 or more entries.
5. Place 1st or 2nd in an English Pleasure, Classic Pleasure or Park Saddle class with 5 or more entries
6. Place 1st or 2nd in a Hunter Pleasure class with 5 or more entries
7. Place 1st or 2nd in a Western Pleasure class with 5 or more entries
8. Place 1st or 2nd in a park saddle class with 3 or more entries
9. Compete and place in a roadster under harness or saddle class
10. Successfully complete a prescribed trail ride of at least 20 miles, either pleasure or competitive.
11. Successfully compete a prescribed trail class.
12. Raise a Morgan foal to 9 months and train it to lead, tie and lunge at an appropriate age.
13. Serve as a counsellor at a horse camp or work in a therapeutic riding program for at least 8 sessions.
14. Successfully compete in a working western event (reining, team penning, cutting, rodeo, etc…)
15. Demonstrate competency riding side-saddle and a working knowledge of side-saddle tack and attire.
16. Win one of the following CMHA program contest: Youth Challenge, Outstanding Youth Award System, Scholarship Award or Sportsmanship Award.
17. Compete in at least 3 different gymkhana events.
18. Successfully complete a combined training event.
19. Successfully complete a combined driving event.
20. Demonstrate how to properly braid the mane and tail of a hunter pleasure horse for competition and give a brief history of braiding.
21. Qualify and compete in a gold level EC dressage competition.
22. Compete in a dressage driving event.
23. Serve on the CMHA Youth Board for at least one term.
24. Ride in an organized parade or parade class.
25. Participate in a club organized clinic with your horse.

26. Participate in a club organized promotional activity with your horse.

27. Participate in a 4-H or Pony Club organized event with your horse.

Lesson Six: History of United States Morgan Horse Farm

Give a 4-5 minute oral speech or submit a 3-4 page written report on the history of the US Morgan Horse Farm from Colonel Battell to present.

The following are excerpts from "The Morgan Horse", February, 1946. Additional information may be acquired from the University of Vermont Morgan Farm, RDF 1, Middlebury, Vermont 05753.

The U.S. Morgan Horse Farm is located in Weybridge Township, 2 miles north of Middlebury, Vermont. The original farm of 400 acres was presented to the U.S. Department of Agriculture by Joseph Battell, the founder of the American Morgan Register. The farm was established in 1907. Since that time, due to an addition donation of 35 acres by Battell and the purchase of 550 acres, the farm has grown to its present 1,000 acres.

One of Battell's objectives in presenting the Farm to the Department of Agriculture was to have it serve as a place where the best Morgan blood could be perpetuated and improved. In the selection of breeding stock, and in planning matings, emphasis was placed upon size and quality and ability to perform the walk, trot and canter. These points continue to be emphasized. Also, every effort has been made to preserve adequate muscling and depth of body and to preserve and enhance desirable temperament.

General Gates 666 AMR was the main sire used during the early years. Many other sires have made contributions, but the ancestral lines of the majority of animals of the stud trace to General Gates in one way or another. The primary object of the Morgan Horse Farm is to conduct research that will yield results to value to all horse breeders and users.

In 1951, The U.S. Government offered the farm to the University of Vermont. The University accepted this offer and remains the current owner. Dr. Donald Balch was appointed Director (a position he filled until 1985) of the run-down facility. Because most of the U.S. Government horses had been sold before the farm changed hands, it was a long, slow process to build up a herd of Morgans that have become admired and sought after. It was through the tremendous efforts and leadership of Dr. Balch that the farm still exists, and the UVM Morgans are known for their consistently uniform type, quality and disposition.

Now a national, historic site, the farm is a tourist attraction to over 40,000 visitors annually who join the guided tours to learn about America's first breed of horse.

A volunteer apprentice program has been designed and offered to young

people to get a "hands-on" experience in the care and training of a large herd of horses. The apprentices play a vital part in maintaining the farm and are involved in roles such as tour guides, barn cleaners, grooms and assistants. These young people gain a well-rounded knowledge in managing a herd of horses, as well as gaining experience through the daily handling of the horses and helping in the many exhibitions and demonstrations the farm participates in. There are now 214 acres surrounding the Victorian barn and buildings that house the 70-85 Morgans. School groups, 4-H and Scouts are often found learning about Morgans and watching them in their training lessons.
The UVM farm continues to promote and perpetuate this proud breed through breeding, research and demonstrations, just a Colonel Battell had wished.

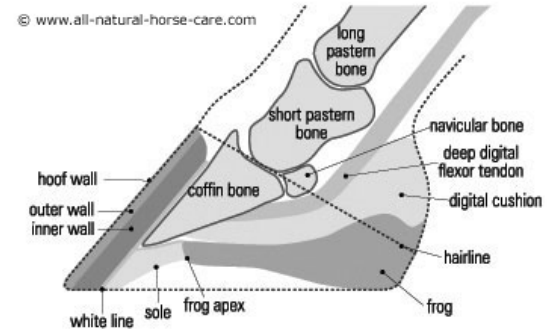
Lesson Seven: Hoof Structure and function

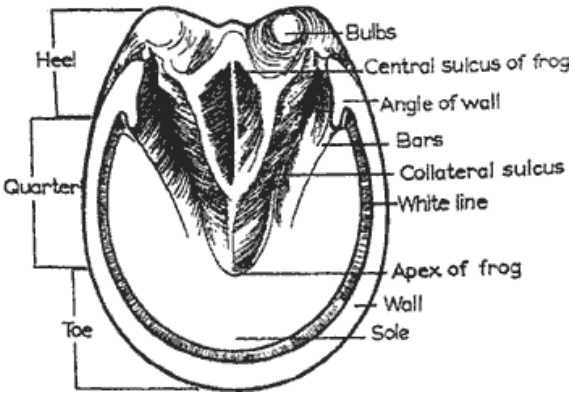
Discuss structure and function of the hoof. Discuss problems which require corrective trimming/shoeing or therapeutic shoeing.

Functions of the Foot

"No foot – no horse" is an old saying that describes how the health of a foot can affect the use of a horse.
The foot has several functions: supporting weight, shock absorption, resisting wear, protection, providing traction, pumping blood, growth & repair and conducting moisture. The forefeet differ slightly in shape from the hind feet. The fore feet are more rounded to allow for expansion during weight bearing. The hind feet are pointed to allow for more traction.

Structure of the Foot





Coffin bone – also known as the pedal bone, it is the largest bone in the foot and supports the weight of the horse. It lacks density which allows for mechanical efficiency and increased blood volume to circulate in the foot.

Navicular bone – a small bone which lies under the back of the coffin bone which improves the mechanics of the Deep Digital Flexor tendon.

Navicular Bursa – A bursa is a fluid-filled sack that acts as a cushion between a bone and tendon. The navicular bursa lies between the navicular bone and the Deep Digital Flexor tendon. It helps to reduce any friction between the two structures.

Deep Digital Flexor Tendon – The DDF tendon crosses the navicular bone and attaches to the coffin bone. The DDF flexes the pastern, fetlock and knee joints.

Hoof Wall – Hard surface on the outside of the hoof from the coronary band to the ground surface. It is thickest at the toe and thinnest at the quarters.

Insensitive lamina forms the inner surface of the hoof wall. Hardness of the wall varies from horse to horse and according to climatic conditions, nutrition, exercise and moisture content.

Sensitive Lamina – Tiny tubules that grow from the surface of the coffin bone and interlock with the insensitive lamina of the wall. It contains blood and nerve supply.

Bars – The bars of the feet are formed by the hoof wall when it turns inward at the heels. The bars allow for shock absorption and expansion of the hoof when weight bearing.

Sole – The sole is the ground surface of the hoof. It should have a concave shape, not flat. The outer layer is insensitive and is often trimmed regularly by the farrier. The sensitive sole (blood and nerve supply) is the next layer, lying above the insensitive lamina and under the coffin bone.

White Line – The white line unites the wall and the sole. It is about 3mm thick and is cream or grey in colour.

Frog – An elastic v-shaped cushion in the sole of the foot located between the bars. The frog helps absorb shock and pump blood back up the leg by compression. Secretions are produced from within the central cleft so that the frog can maintain its moisture content (50%) to stay flexible and supple. On each side of the frog between the frog and the bars are the lateral clefts. The ground surface of the frog is insensitive with a sensitive layer directly above it. The insensitive frog will 'shed' twice a year.

Digital Cushion – A spongy structure above the frog and behind the navicular bone which contains blood vessels. Pressure on the cushion helps to pump blood back up the leg.

Lateral Cartilages – Wing shaped cartilages that extend from the upper sides of the coffin bone and form the flexible bulbs of the heel.

Coronary Band – The outer band of tissue at the hairline from which the hoof wall grows. The coronary band should

form an angle of about 30 degrees with the ground.

Coronet – The recess at the top of the foot in which the coronary band lies.

Perioplе – A thin varnish-like substance that allows the hoof to hold its moisture. Perioplе is secreted from glands within the perioplic ring just above the coronary band.

Corrective Trimming

Corrective trimming is used to correct certain defects of the foot and leg conformation while the horse is still young. The shape and balance of the foot is altered so that the leg gradually straightens. This is a gradual process that occurs over many months. Corrective trimming is most effective in foals and young horses before their bones have hardened and stopped growing. Radical corrective trimming in mature horses can force the bones of their natural although crooked alignment, causing severe stress on the related structures or lameness.

Corrective Shoeing

Corrective shoeing is most effective on mature horses. The foot is trimmed level than corrective shoes are applied to improve the faults. The purpose here is to help the horse move better not to change his conformation. Changes in weight, angle, shape and type of shoe can make a significant difference in the way a horse travels. Issues such as interfering, forging, overreaching, winging, paddleing, stumbling and toe dragging can be helped by corrective shoeing. Conditions such as contracted heels and club feet can also be helped with corrective shoeing.

Therapeutic Shoeing

Therapeutic shoeing is the use of special shoes and shoeing techniques to help a horse heal an injury such as an abscess or to cope with a chronic condition such as navicular syndrome, founder, ring bone, side bone, hoof cracks or arthritis.

Shoes used for corrective/therapeutic purposes include:

Bar Shoes – used to apply or relieve pressure on certain parts of the foot. There are different types of bar shoes including straight, egg and heart.

Straight - features a bar between the heels, which prevents expansion and protects the heel area from concussion.

Egg - similar to a straight bar, but it extends further back behind the heel of the hoof. The egg bar shoe prevents impact to the rear portion of the hoof.

Heart - provides considerably more pressure than a straight bar, and are used on a horse that you want to bear more weight on the frog rather than the toe.

Squared Toe (hind) – used to prevent forging or over reaching. Square toes also allow for easier break over.

Rolled/Rocker Toe – makes for easier break over of the foot to help reduce stumbling.

Feather Edge – used to reduce the possibility of interfering or brushing. The inner branch of the shoe is 'feathered' and fitted close in under the wall so that the risk of striking the opposite leg is reduced to a minimum. Being slightly higher on the inside, this type of edge causes the horse to move slightly wider, which also helps to prevent brushing.

Dropped Sole – a drop sole foot will not grow good strong hoof wall, consequently the sole of the foot rests on the ground causing great pain. A dropped sole shoe allows a dropped sole to be suspended inside the shoe without touching the ground.

Heel Extensions – used to add support to the heels

Trailer Shoes – A hind shoe with one extended heel to help the hoof take off and land straight.

Pads – pads are made of leather or synthetic material and are used to protect the sole, reduce concussion or to adjust the angle of the hoof.

Lesson Eight: Shoeing

Good trimming or shoeing aims to keep the horse sound and comfortable allowing him to move efficiently for his job within his limitations of conformation.

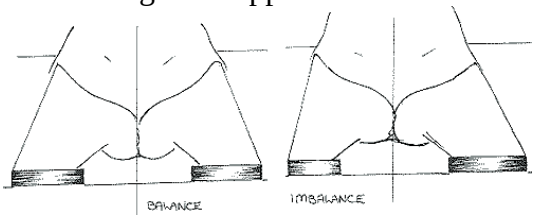
Recognize and describe good and bad shoeing

A healthy foot can grow up to ½ inch per month. If not trimmed, the hoof wall will break off and not wear evenly. To prevent this, the hooves must be trimmed regularly. In addition shoes are necessary for many horses. Shoes do wear thin and must be replaced periodically. Horses need to be reset or reshod at 4-6 week intervals. The wear pattern shown by each foot/shoe is an important indicator of soundness and way of going. Each horse must be shod or trimmed according to his own individual needs. *Shoes must be made to fit the foot NOT the foot to fit the shoe*.

Weight and concussion travel in a straight up and down direction. A properly balanced foot distributes the concussion and carries the weight evenly without overstressing any part of the foot or leg. Incorrectly balancing a foot places extra strain on parts of the leg or foot.
A foot should be trimmed so that it lands in good lateral balance without twisting, rocking or landing on one side first.
The angle of the foot should match the angle of the pastern to keep the bones in correct alignment.
Excessive weight increases the arc of stride, concussion, effort to pick up the foot and tendency to wing or paddle.

Hints when deciphering good from bad shoeing

1. The inside edge of the shoe is NOT pressing into the sole.
2. No excessive rasping of the outside wall
3. Healthy frog is NOT trimmed unless there is clearly an excess
4. Toe is NOT dubbed off
5. Rasping is done in such a manner that the heel is included in each stroke
6. Slope of the hoof should be the same angle as the pastern
7. There should be no space between the wall and the shoe
8. Nail holes are in a straight line over the white line
9. There should be sufficient shoe length to support the heel



Recognize and describe common farrier tools

Clench Cutters used to raise the clinch up off the hoof wall

Pullers – used for pulling shoes off a horse or to pull nail heads out a shoe. They are very dull so they will not cut.

Hoof Knife – used to trim the sole and frog

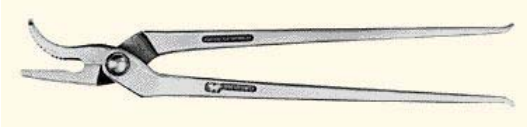
Hoof Nippers – used to trim the hoof wall

Rasp – To level the hoof after trimming. Rasps are also used to file down the clinches after they are set to clean up the appearance. Rasps have a fine and coarse teeth.

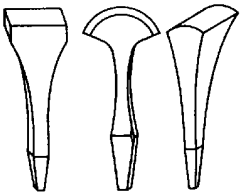
Hammer – used to hammer the nails in place through the hoof wall. The ears of the hammer are then used to twist the excess nail points off once the nail is passed through the hoof wall. The remainder of the nail or cinch is then bent down against the hoof wall.

Clinch Block – used to set the clinch in place. The block is placed against the end of the protruding nail and then the head of the nail is hit with the hammer setting the nail head in place in the nail hole on the shoe. This then causes the nail to bend down against the wall. This is an important tool as this clinching step is what holds the shoe on the foot.

Nail Clinchers – in addition to the clinch block, clinchers are used to clinch nails in place on the hoof wall. They apply pressure to the clinch and nail head simultaneously.



Hardy Tool - used to clean out the nail holes in the shoes



Pritchel – used to punch new nail holes in the shoe

Farrier Tongs – used for handling hot shoes.

Shoe Spreader – designed for spreading or widening horse shoes

Anvil – used to pound out and shape shoes

Hoof Stand – A hoof stand is used to hold a hoof at a higher level so that the farrier can rasp the foot more easily

Hoof Gauge – used to measure the angle of the foot

Identify different types of shoes and give reasons for using each. Briefly describe modifications and specializations that are involved in shoeing.

Horseshoes can be made of steel, aluminum, titanium, rubber, plastic or a combination and are either classified as open-heeled or bar shoes. Basic horseshoes include plain-stamped, fullered, concave, hunter or half round. These shoes then can have infinite number of variations and modifcations done that can be tailored to the horse such weight, pads and traction devices.

Material

Steel – steel shoes are the most common and easiest to use. They can be easily modified or forged and welded. The average working horse will wear steel shoes.

Aluminum – Aluminum shoes are very common for horses that work at speed or endurance such as racing, western speed events and endurance horses where the weight of the shoe is of great importance. These shoes are not as easy to forge or weld and tend to wear down faster.

Titanium – Titanium is used for horses that need light but strong shoes. They are often used on heavier race horses, jumpers and barrel racers who need to make sharp turns at speed. Titanium can be easily forged but they can be costly.

Rubber/Plastic – these types of shoes are used often when a horse has a disease of the foot or on horses who can't take nails in the hoof wall as they can be glued on.

Basic Types

Plain Stamped/Keg – flat shoes with nail holes punched out. These shoes provide maximum wear and are often used on draft and driving horses. They do not provide much grip so they can be slippery.

Fullered – a fullered shoe means that a grove is created on the underside of the shoe creating an indent. The groove can be full or three-quarter fullered. These shoes provide better heel support and wear long time. Disadvantages include heavier weight and less traction.

Concave/Riding – These are the most common type of shoe and are very versatile and provide good grip on harder surfaces. These shoes don't wear as long.

Half – Round Shoe – The underside of the shoe is rounded providing easier break over but is very slippery.

Hunter Shoe – this is a combination of a fullered and concave design so to provide a much closer fit. These shoes are durable on both hard and soft surfaces but offer no support to the horse.

Specializations

Weighted Shoes – weighted shoes are often used at the toe to increase the flipping action of the front foot or at the side to increase rolling off the side of the foot or in the heel to exaggerate the motion and flight of the front foot.

Sliders – Reining Horse Sliding plates on a horse's hind feet will allow a flotation and skidding action. The wider the shoe the less friction. The nail heads are also filed down smooth to the shoe, again causing less drag. The toe is rolled keeping it from digging into the ground during the sliding stop

Draft – Draft shoes are much bigger shoes and often have clips, toe grabs and heel caulks on them.

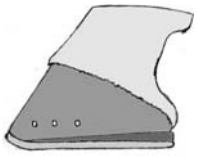
Modifications

Trailers (Hind) – trailers are used to increase action of the hind foot, keep the foot on the ground longer or to keep a horse gaited. They are also used to prevent the hoof from twisting in the direction of the trailer.

Pads – Pads are used to protect the sole, reduce concussion or for treatment of various problems. Packing material is used between the pad and the sole to maintain moisture content.

1. **Regular Pads –** made of leather or synthetic material and is used to protect the sole and reduce concussion.

2. **Degree Pads –** wedge-shaped pads that are thicker at the heel. They are used to adjust the angle of the foot.



3. **Rim Pads –** Pads that cover the edge of the foot and heels, leaving the frog and sole exposed. It follows the shape of the shoe. They are also used to alter the hoof angle.

Clips – a shoe may have clips on the sides, called quarter clips or at the toe, called toe clips. These clips help to keep the shoe on.

Extended Heels – These shoes have added length to them to offer extra heel support for horses that is in need.

Spooned Heels – Spooned heel shoes on the front shoes can be helpful for horses that paw or chronic over-reachers. The heels of the shoes are bent upwards toward the heel bulbs.

Rocker Toe - The front of the shoe is literally bent up around coffin bone, and is the best and safest shoe modification that can be made to promote easy break over for the horse.

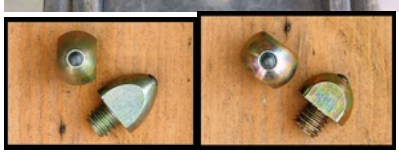
Squared off toe – the toe is hammered out to square it off to provide easier break over. Many hind shoes have square toes.

Roller Toe - roller toe to the front of the shoe provides for easy break over. It moves the break over point back on the shoe. The roller toe is also hammered out.

Traction Devices – Traction devices may be added to shoes to prevent slipping.

1. **Calks –** These dig into the ground and help prevent slipping, especially on grass. Often used on shoes for jumping or mountain trail horses. Calks are added to the heels of the shoes permanently.

2. **Screw in Calks –** shoes can be made so that they can have various styles and sizes of calks screwed in and removed when necessary. The calks are changed depending on the types and conditions of footing. A special tool is used to insert, tighten and remove them.



3. **Blade/Jar Calks -** a short transverse blade that is just forward of the heel areas. These blades sink into the soft earth and provide better traction for pulling heavy loads. These are commonly used during the winter, or in very muddy terrain.

4. **Borium –** A super-hard metal that is welded onto the heels and toes of shoes. Borium bites into hard surfaces such as pavement, ice or rock to prevent slipping.

5. **Toe Grabs –** a toe grab is a raised rim on the toe area on the underside of the shoe. Its purpose is to help the horse dig in and reduce slipping.

6. **Swedge/ Rim -** A swedge is an indentation in the bottom of the horseshoe. A swedge fills with dirt as a horse moves and so it increases traction. Horseshoes can have full, half, toe or heel swedges depending on the type of sport and terrain. The swedge ridges can be higher on the inside or outside of the shoe depending on what is asked of the horse. The surface heights created by a swedge change the way a horse's foot leaves the ground.

Therapeutic

See Lesson 7 – shoes for therapeutic/corrective shoeing.

Lesson Nine: Trailer Safety

Demonstrate how to do a safety check on a trailer including tires, brakes, hitches, lights and floor.

Preparation for travelling with your horse is an on-going process which begins long before you prepare your horse as discussed in Level 4, Almost There. You need to keep your trailer and towing vehicle in good working condition at all times. Situations like emergencies don't allow for much preparation time.

1. Trailer frame – the trailer should pull straight and the frame should not be cracked or damaged.
2. Trailer axels – axels should be checked for damage especially if you notice one tire wearing more than the other.
3. Tailgate & Dividers – ensure all hinges, springs, latches and rings are working properly. Lubricate frequently.
4. Trailer Jack – The jack is what makes it easy to lift and lower the trailer onto the hitch. Lubricate all moving parts with a grease gun.
5. Hitches – Be sure that the metal is not thin or cracked in any one spot and that the hitch is properly seated on the ball, closed and locked in to place. The hitch should be lubricated with oil as needed. Be sure that the hitch and ball are the correct size and match. The hitch on the vehicle should be at a height that allows the trailer to be level when attached.
6. Safety Chains – ensure chains are the correct length and that the

hooks are not damaged. It is recommended that the chains be crossed when attaching them to the vehicle.

7. Tires – These should have tread that is not worn in any one spot and is at least 1/2 inch deep. Check for dry-rotting too within the walls. Proper inflation reduces the risk of tire failure and prolongs the life of the tire. Make sure you have the correct tire size and load rating for your trailer. Always carry a spare tire (in working condition) for both the trailer and towing vehicle.
8. Wheel Bearings – bearings must be lubricated with grease and adjusted periodically.
9. Brakes – Brakes should be tested regularly and before each trip on both the trailer and towing vehicle.
10. Lights – check to be sure that running lights, brake lights and turning signals are all working before leaving.
11. Matting/Padding – look for tears and rips and repair as necessary.
12. Floorboards – Check periodically to see that they are not rotting or in need of replacement. Floor matting and floorboard should be washed down regularly.
13. Vents and Windows – these should be closed when the trailer is not in use to prevent rain and snow damaging the inside of the trailer. Remember to open them according to the weather when travelling.
14. Tow Vehicle – check fluid levels before leaving, including fuel.
15. Shipping Equipment – It is a good idea to carry extra shipping equipment in case of something being damaged or broken. Halters, lead shanks, extra trailer ties, blankets, bandages, hay and water is recommended.

Don't leave home without:

16. Emergency flares or reflector triangles
17. Flashlight
18. Jumper cables and spare fuses
19. Spare tire, jack, chock blocks, torque wrench and oil
20. Tool kit (crowbar, hammer, wrench, etc…)
21. Duct tape
22. Fire extinguisher
23. Horse and human first aid kits
24. Cell phone, charger and numbers
25. Maps/directions/GPS
26. Transport papers (horse & human)
27. Tranquillizer, needle and syringe

This and That…

If you are new to driving your rig, practice driving it close to home without any horses in the trailer.

Make sure you have followed your provincial regulations for trailer and towing vehicle inspections.

A hot tire can set a trailer on fire, when travelling hot roads, check each tire during rest stops.

If you are hauling one horse in a 2 horse trailer, he should ride on the driver's side to help balance the trailer.

If you are hauling one horse in a slant load, he should ride in the front stall to ensure a smoother ride.

During long trips plan to stop every 3-4 hours to check on the horses and replenish hay and water if necessary.

Horses should not be hauled more than 18 hours straight without being unloaded and given extended rest.

Horses tend to be content when hay is provided acting as a pacifier, but do not feed grain as it can sit in the gut and colic may be possible especially if the horse is stressed.
Watering is very important especially on hot days. Watering every 3-4 hours is adequate. It is a good idea to bring water from home.
Having bedding in the trailer can add comfort to the horses ride as it will provide cushion and absorb urine. Be sure to clean it out after.
When transporting in the winter, they should be blanketed. Be aware of overheating and ensure proper ventilation is provided.
Never let horses hang their heads out of trailer windows when travelling.

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The Sky's the Limit

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	Fore Limb		
	Hind Limb		
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