

ANATOMICAL TERMS

Proximal – closer to the center of body or attachment point

The elbow is at the proximal end of the leg.

Distal – farther from the center of body or attachment point

The hoof is at the distal end of the leg.

Cranial – towards, or closer to, the head

The throatlatch is cranial to the withers.

Caudal – towards, or closer to, the tail, or posterior

The flank is caudal to the shoulder.

Dorsal – towards, or closer to, the back, or spine

Ventral – towards, or closer to, the front, or belly

Medial – closer to, or pertaining to, the center of the animal

Lateral – closer to, or pertaining to, the sides of an animal

Superficial – closer to the surface

Deep – farther from the surface

Ligament – attaches bone to bone

Tendon – attaches muscle to bone

Cartilage – fibrous connective tissue

Flexor – causes to bend

Extensor – causes to extend

Phalanges – bones of fingers and toes in humans, or pasterns and feet in horses

Metacarpals – bones of hand in humans, or front cannon bones

Metatarsals – bones of feet in humans, or hind cannon in horses

Pelvic – pertaining to pelvis

Patellar – pertaining to kneecap

Mandibular – pertaining to jaw

Spinal – pertaining to spine

Carpal – pertaining to wrist joint in humans, knee in horses

Tarsal – pertaining to ankle in humans, or hock, in horses

Thoracic – pertaining to chest

Abdominal – pertaining to belly

Inguinal – pertaining to the groin

