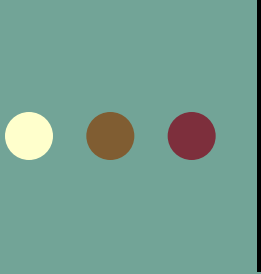
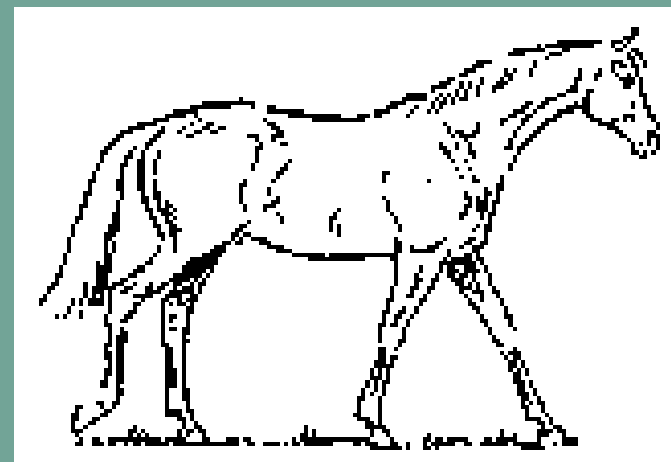




Horse Gaits

- 
- Rhythmic characteristic movement of a horse's feet and legs in motion are called gaits.
 - Three natural gaits of the horse are the walk, trot, (canter) and gallop.
 - A natural gait is one that is performed by natural impulse and without training.
 - Acquired gaits are the result of specific training and practice like rack, and the slow gaits (stepping pace, running walk, fox trot, and amble).
 - Two things are almost always included in the definition of an individual gait: number of beats and whether it is lateral or diagonal

Walk



- A Four-beat gait
- Each of the four feet strike the ground separately from the other
- Mother or basis or foundation of all gaits
- There is no suspension phase

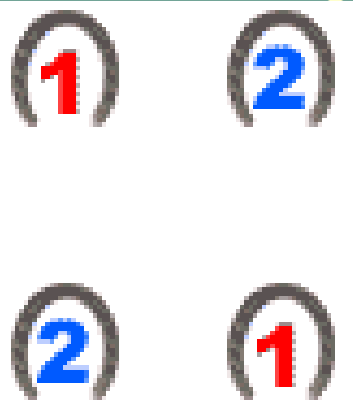


(1st beat) **right hind leg**
(2nd beat) **right fore leg**
(3rd beat) **left hind leg**
(4th beat) **left fore leg**

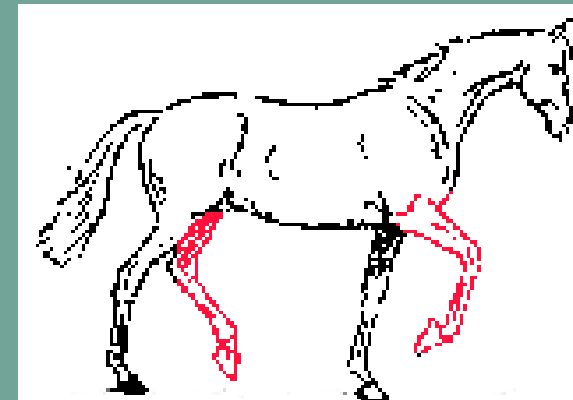
Trot (Jog/intermediate gait)

- A rapid, diagonal, two-beat gait in which the right front and left rear feet hit the ground in unison, and the left front and right rear feet hit the ground in unison
- The horse travels straight without swaying sideways when trotting

Has a suspension phase



(1st beat) **right fore / left hind**
(2nd beat) **left fore / right hind**



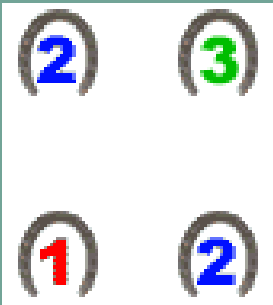
Pace

- It is a fast two beat lateral gait where the feet on the same side strike the ground simultaneously.
- Pace is performed by Standard bred harness racing horses.
- Footfall pattern of the pace is the right hind and right front together, then left hind and left front together.
- As the horse rocks from side to side, there is a brief moment of suspension where all four feet are off the ground prior to the next lateral pair touching the ground.
- Pacers have the ability to start quickly at considerable speed.
- Pace has a suspension phase

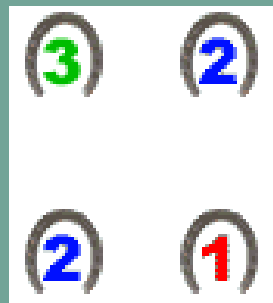


Canter

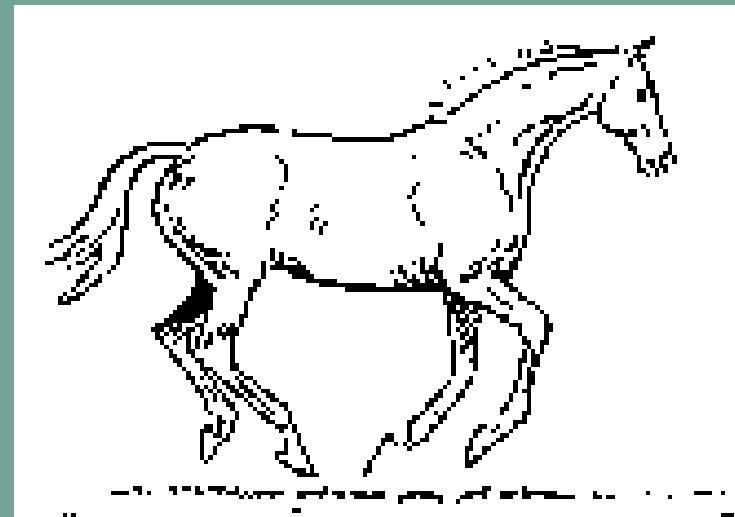
- A fast three-beat gait
- Depending on the lead, the two diagonal legs hit the ground at the same time
- The other hind legs and foreleg hitting at different times



The Right-Lead Canter:
(1st beat) **left hind leg**
(2nd beat) **right hind / left fore**
(3rd beat) **right fore leg**



The Left-Lead Canter:
(1st beat) **right hind leg**
(2nd beat) **left hind / right fore**
(3rd beat) **left fore leg**



Gallop (Run)

- The fastest gait with four beats



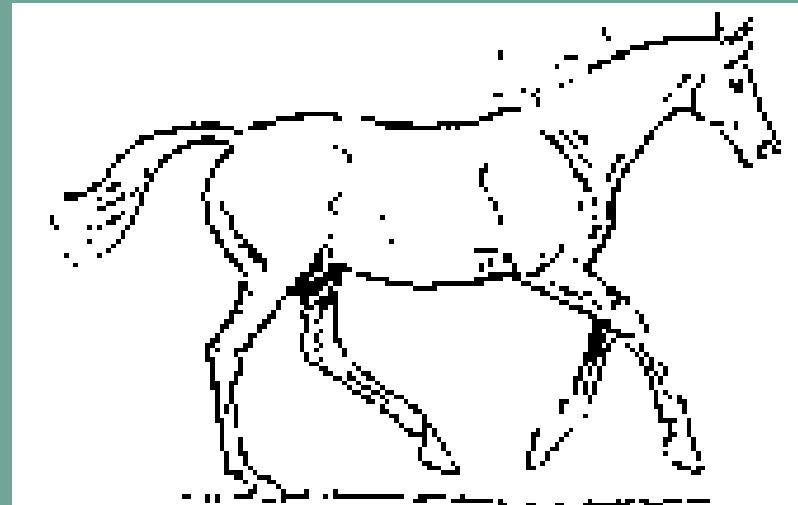
Right-Lead Gallop:

- (1st beat) **left hind leg**
- (2nd beat) **right hind leg**
- (3rd beat) **left fore leg**
- (4th beat) **right fore leg**



Left-Lead Gallop:

- (1st beat) **right hind leg**
- (2nd beat) **left hind leg**
- (3rd beat) **right fore leg**
- (4th beat) **left fore leg**





Rack

- It is a fast, flashy, evenly timed, four beat gait.
- Feet start and stop at the same intervals of time of each other.
- Sequence of beats is similar to the sequence of the stepping pace.
- It is characterized by considerable knee action and extreme speed.
- Squatting form and climbing action of the stepping pace are apparent.
- This is an artificial gait, (performed by the American Saddlebred and the Tennessee Walking Horse)
- The rack is popular in the show-ring for speed and animation



Running Walk

- It is a diagonal four beat gait shown by Tennessee Walking Horse
- It is an artificial gait that is faster than the normal walk
- Each foot takes off and strikes at separate intervals with the front foot striking the ground before the diagonal hind foot.
- Hind quarters propel the horse in motion.
- Hind feet over-reach the front feet from several to over 36 inches producing a smooth gliding motion.
- This gait is very comfortable to both horse and rider.



Abnormalities

- Interference
 - ✓ The striking of the supporting leg by the foot of the striding leg by a horse in action
- Paddling (Winging out)
 - ✓ A horse that toes in tends to swing its front feet outward giving a paddling motion
- Winging in
 - ✓ The foreleg swings to the inside
- Overreaching
 - ✓ a horse that overreaches with the hind leg and catches the heel of the front foot with the toe of the hind foot
 - ✓ This can cause a stumble or fall



- Forging

- ✓ when the hind foot hits the shoe on the front foot

- Striking

- ✓ Refers to any time a horse hits his own leg with a hoof

- Plaiting

- ✓ Also called rope walking, refers to placing the feet in front of each other while in motion.
- ✓ Usually caused by narrow conformation

- Overreaching

- ✓ When the horse actually grabs his front heel and does injury to himself with a hind foot



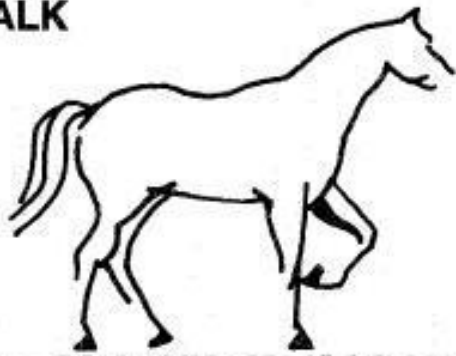
- Speedy cutting

- ✓ Refers to the striking of a hind leg with a foreleg, usually in sports such as barrel racing which include sharp turns at high speeds

- Cross firing

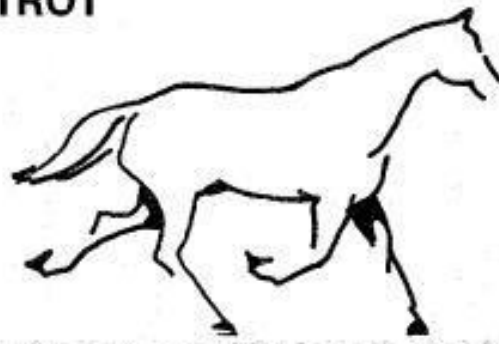
- ✓ Sometimes used incorrectly in reference to a disunited canter, but actually refers to a pacer striking a foreleg with the diagonal hind leg

WALK



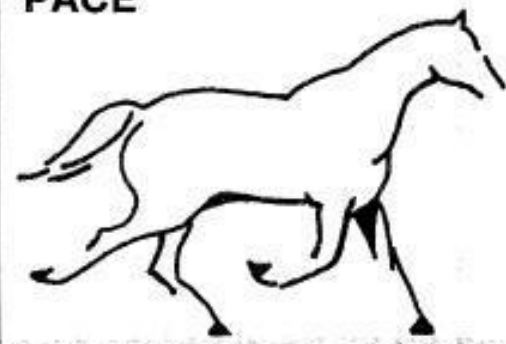
Triangular support

TROT



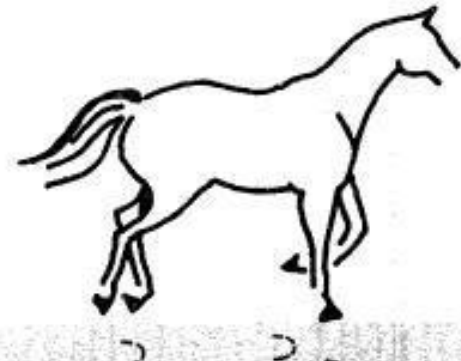
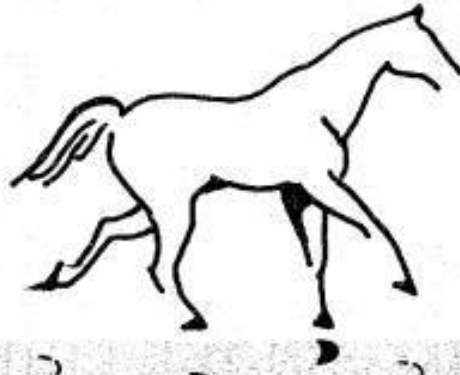
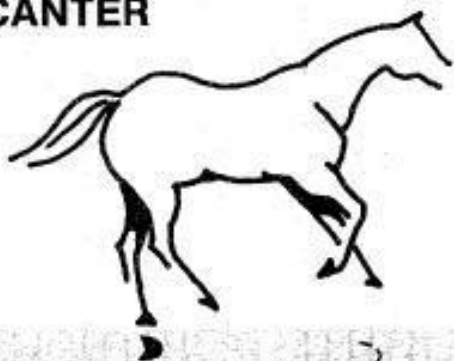
Diagonal linear support

PACE



Lateral linear support

CANTER



GALLOP

