

# EQUINE LAMENESS EXAM

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## Gait Analysis

<u>Diagnostic Test</u>	<u>Results and Analysis</u>	
	<u>Forelimb Lameness</u>	<u>Hindlimb Lameness</u>
Walk / Trot	The most consistent sign of a unilateral forelimb lameness is the head nod. The head and neck of the horse rise when the lame forelimb strikes the ground and is weight bearing, and fall when the sound limb strikes the ground.	The sacral (pelvic) rise is the most consistent and easily observed sign of hindlimb lameness. The entire pelvis and sacrum rise when the lame limb strikes the ground and is weight bearing, and fall when the sound limb strikes the ground.
	Both the head nod and the pelvic raise serve to reduce concussion on the lame limb.	
Flexion Test	Flexion tests are often performed in an effort to localise the lameness to the distal or proximal limb; however, the horse's responses to flexion tests are not necessarily repeatable or reliable.	
Lunging	Both forelimb and hindlimb lameness may become worse when the horse is circled; most of the time, the lameness is accentuated when the affected limb is on the inside of the circle.	