Palpation

* The veterinarian should palpate and manipulate every possible anatomical structure, using the fingers and hands to push, prod, and feel. Interpretation of an abnormal response requires appreciation of the normal response.
* Care should be taken to apply pressure only in the desired location.
* The clinician should look for signs of inflammation: heat, pain, redness, swelling, and loss of function.
* One side of the horse should be compared with the other, but it should be remembered that both sides may be abnormal.
* The veterinarian should assess the quality or strength of the digital pulse.
* Inflammatory conditions in the foot or pastern region, such as abscesses, laminitis, hoof avulsions, or

cracks, are the most common causes of increased digital pulse amplitude. Complete absence of hindlimb digital

pulse may occur with aortoiliac thromboembolism or other vascular problems.

* *Crepitus,* the grating or crackling sound made by bone rubbing on bone, is an unusual and ominous clinical sign usually determined by palpation.

Forelimb Palpation

Done on:

* Foot
* Fetlock
* Pastern
* Metacarpal region
* Carpus
* Antebrachium (Forearm)
* Elbow
* Brachium (Arm) and Shoulder

Hindlimb Palpation

Done on:

* Thigh
* Stifle
* Crus
* Tarsus

Cervical and Thoracolumbar Spine Palpation

* Neck or Cervical Spine
* Back or Thoracolumbar Spine

Lateral and Ventral Thorax Palpation

Palpation of External Genitalia

* Testicular or inguinal pain should be considered as a cause of gait modification.

Palpation of the Pelvis