

Vet Work – Plain and Simple: Volume III

GLOSSARY OF VETERINARY TERMS





Booklets Previously Published by the CBA:

Vet Work - Plain and Simple: Scoping

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A comprehensive explanation of the scoping process and results.

Vet Work - Plain and Simple: OCDs In Sale Horses

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A comprehensive explanation of the subject of OCDs in the sale horse.

Buying Sales Yearlings - Plain and Simple

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A useful guide to the sales with a discussion of "Sales Myths" and a Q&A with trainers.

Success At The Sales - Plain And Simple:

50 Things You Need To Know, Do And Remember

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A guide to help yearling buyers plan and purchase effectively and succeed in the yearling marketplace.

All booklets may be downloaded at
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Glossary of Veterinary Terms

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Terms have been reviewed and approved by a panel of licensed veterinarians.

Cartoon illustrations by Chris Ware

Equine anatomical illustrations courtesy of AAEP

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EDUCATION • INTEGRITY • SERVICE

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Dear Reader,

As part of the CBA's educational booklet series related to scoping, OCDs, and various sales issues, this glossary of veterinary terms is intended to provide accurate and enlightening information to all participants in the lively commerce of breeding, buying and selling prospective racehorses.

The point of the CBA's educational initiatives has always been to improve the sales scene for the betterment of all parties by presenting careful research and a clear explanation of items or issues that receive little attention in the general press.

This glossary is needed because many of the terms and phrases commonly used at the sales and in veterinary reports or commentaries are quite technical and are not generally understood by horsemen. While veterinarians are professionally trained to use specialized terms, the meaning of those terms is confusing to most sales participants.

As participants in an industry transacting hundreds of millions of dollars annually, we buyers, sellers, agents, consignors, and all associated personnel need to empower ourselves with a thorough knowledge of veterinary terms. As the significance of various veterinary findings often depends on location and degree, we also need to ask our veterinary consultants specific questions related to implications and probabilities for future racing performance.

Becoming more knowledgeable consumers of veterinary opinion and information is part of our due diligence as serious buyers and advisers in an international marketplace. For instance, my own experience in researching and putting together materials for the CBA's booklet on OCDs revised my understanding of the condition a full 180 degrees.



When I began, I had heard of OCDs (like anyone else who attends the sale or has a horse or two) and had taken away a sense that the result was always bad. An OCD was just bad news, with the further implication that any afflicted horse was not much of a racing prospect.

I did not understand that, in fact, most OCDs disappear as part of a young horse’s development or are otherwise insignificant. The reality of how little effect most OCDs have on a horse’s prospects to train and to have a successful athletic career were a revolution in my thinking. But research conducted by dedicated professionals and the substantial body of anecdotal information that trainers and breeders have collected systematically over the past two decades clearly shows that OCDs are not the end of a racehorse’s prospects.

My experience with OCDs, and my surprise that nearly all horses have them at some point in their lives, emphasizes how important it is for all of us associated with these wonderful creatures to understand the sophisticated jargon associated with their care.

Without careful explanation, too many vet terms appear vague and unclear while seeming ominous. As a result, breeders and purchasers may lose important opportunities when poorly or partially explained terminology unnecessarily cancels interest in an exciting young athletic prospect. The owner loses significant revenue and a possibly profitable sale, and the potential buyer loses an attractive racing prospect that they have carefully selected.

We at the CBA hope that this glossary takes a further step toward helping all parties at the sales move forward with confidence and increased understanding.

Sincerely,



Frank Mitchell



with clients in order to indicate how a clinical finding ranks within the normal spectrum, so that buyers do not unnecessarily miss out on purchasing a good horse that they like in every other way.”

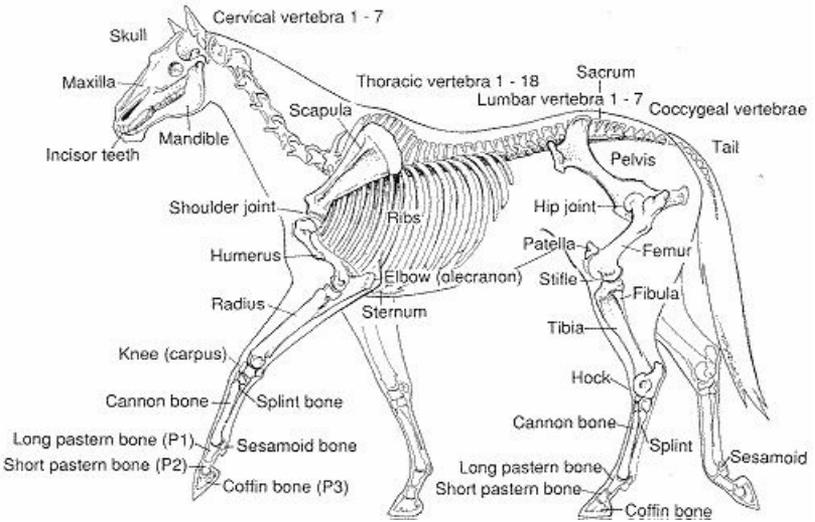
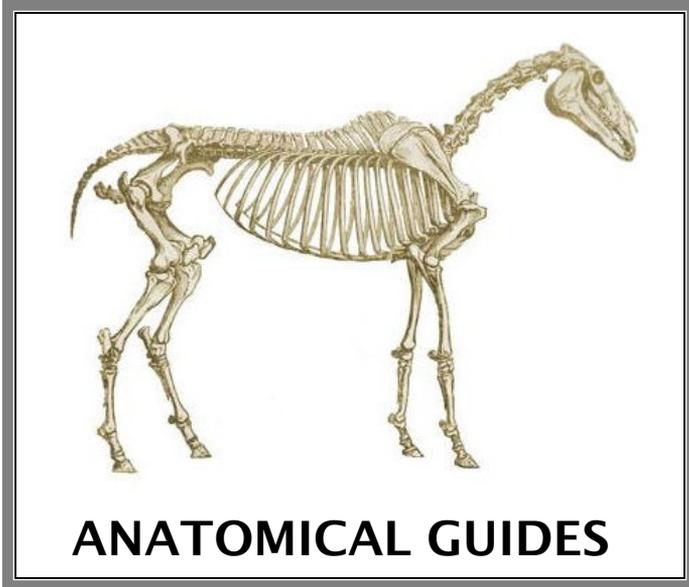
Bottom line is that as a buyer you have a responsibility to yourself to be an informed consumer. Because little research is available related to veterinary findings and future racing success, it is very important that your veterinarian understands your goals and risk tolerance. For instance, if your goal is to win a two year old race in April at Keeneland, a certain horse may not fit for you because of a radiographic imperfection that may need additional time to resolve. On the other hand, if your goal is to run the same horse in the summer or fall of its two year old year, there may be no reason for hesitation on a purchase.

Open, direct, and clear communication during the buying process can create great opportunities for buyers who do not insist upon radiographic "perfection" before bidding on a prospect.

Read more about developing your vet/client relationship in the CBA booklet *Buying Sales Yearlings Plain and Simple*.

BUYER + HORSE + VET =
a winning TEAM!





Directional Descriptions

Abaxial: Away from the central axis of the organism of the extremity.

Axial: Nearer to midline or central axis.

Coronal plane: Divides the body into dorsal and ventral.

Dorsal: The side of the body normally oriented upwards, away from the pull of gravity (a dolphin has a *dorsal* fin).

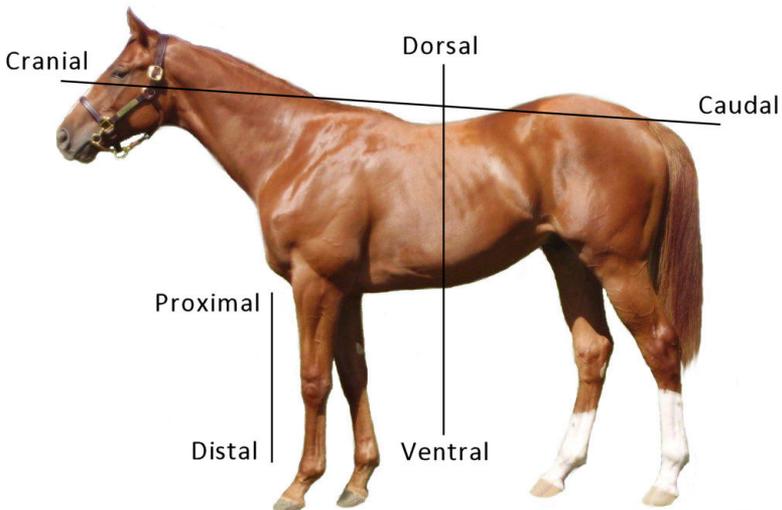
Lateral: Structures near the sides.

Medial: Structures near the midline.

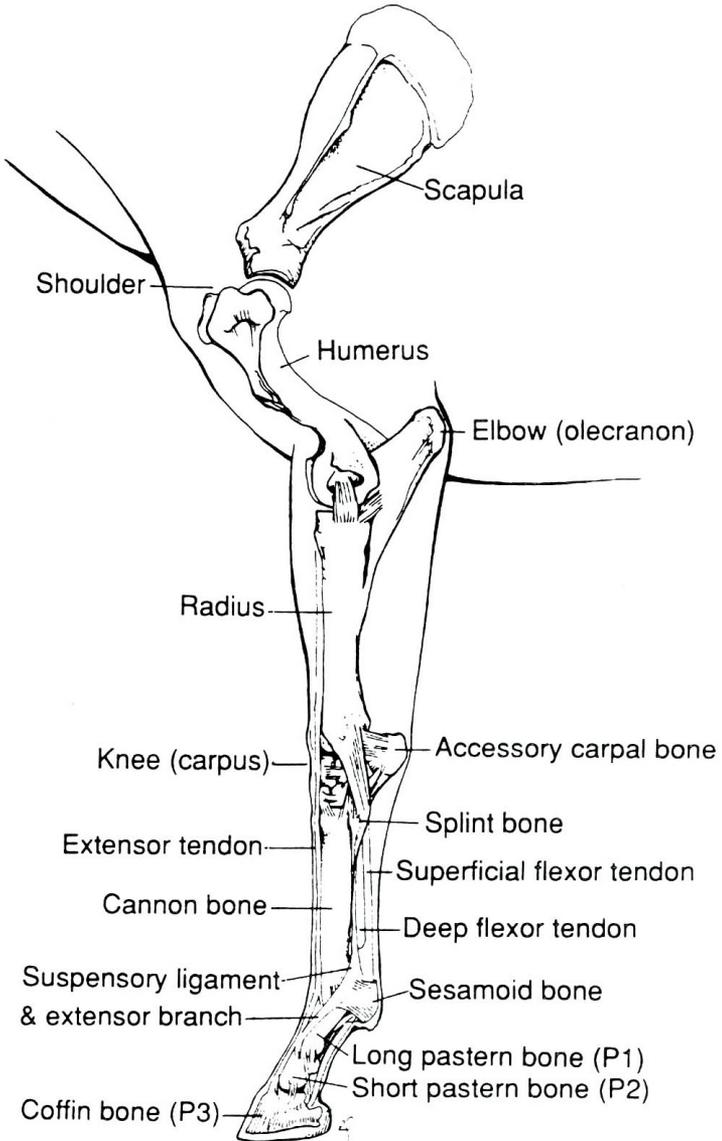
Midsagittal plane: Midline, naturally divides the body into right and left equal halves.

Transverse: Divides the body into cranial and caudal.

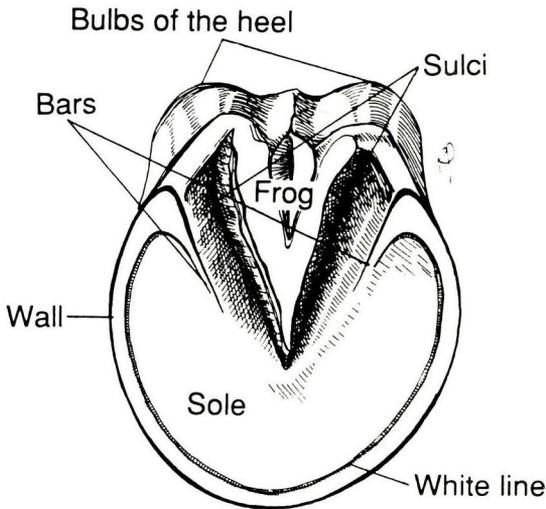
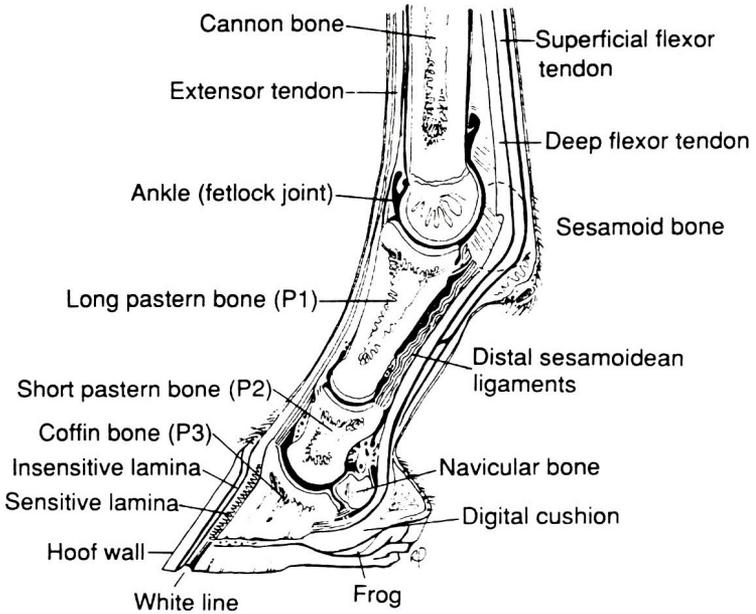
Ventral: Side of the body closest to the ground.



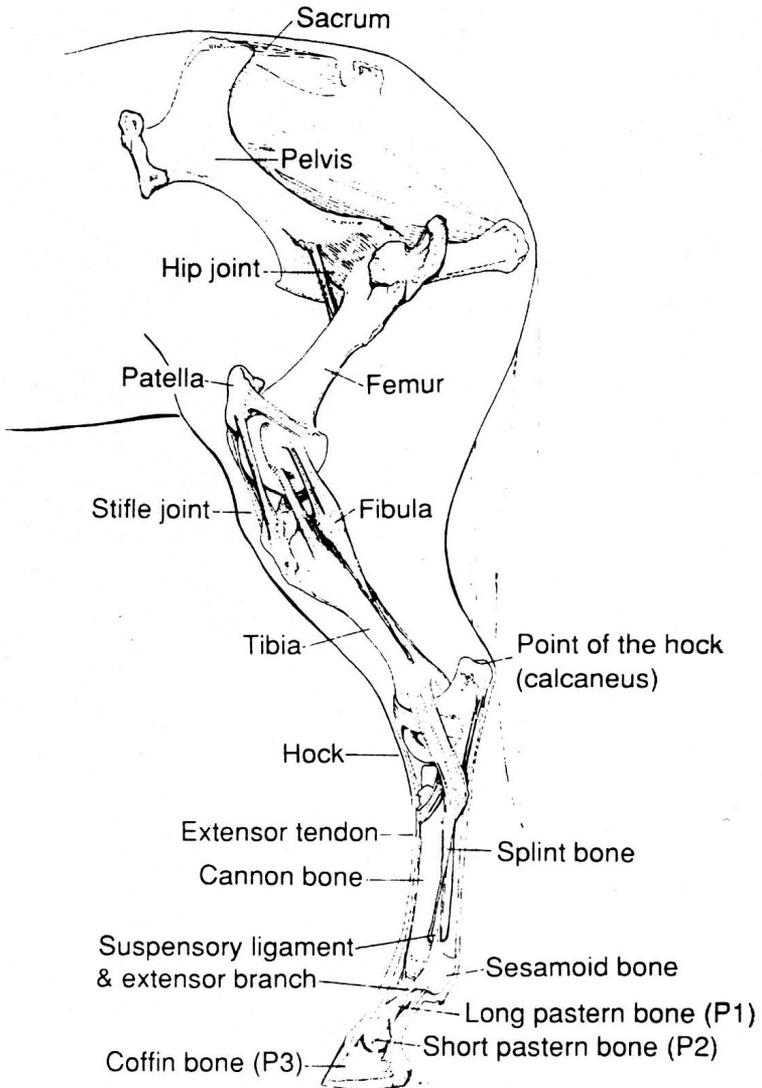
Front Leg Anatomy



Fetlock and Foot



Hind Leg Anatomy



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

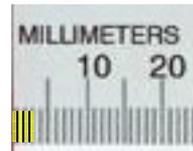
Beneath each term and definition are a small sampling of recent successful race horses who evidenced that particular finding as a young horse.

Abaxial: Away from the central axis of the organism of the extremity.

Avulsion: Referring to small fragments pulled loose from the bone.

Chip: 3–10 millimeters in size.

Skip Away (G1), First Samurai (G1), Furthest Land (G1)



3 mm

Flake: 2 millimeter or less in size.

Fragment: This term can be used alone or may also be accompanied with adjectives (small, large etc.).

Usually more important when within a joint; typically of less concern when outside a joint.

Purge (G1), Buddha (G1), Gozzip Girl (G1), Gotta Have Her (G3)

Axial: Nearer to midline or central axis.

Bone Spur: Term used to describe sharp bony projections that are visible on x-rays at the joint margins of affected horses. The medical term for these spurs is "osteophytes," and they occur specifically at the margins of joints where the articular cartilage (cartilage at the ends of adjoining bones in joints) blends into the underlying bone.

Ginger Punch (G1), Da Tara (G1), Purge (G1), Buddha (G1), Fleet Street Dancer (G1), Lemons Forever (G1), Ashado(G1), Splendid Blended (G1), Vindication (G1), Kela (G2), Proud Citizen (G2), Eatons Gift (G2)

Boney Eminence: Raised calcification on bone not normally present. Can be pointed or smooth, single or multiple.

Lucency: Area of decreased bone density represented by a dark area in a radiograph; it may or may not be pathological (an effect caused by a disease).

Mushka (G1), Unbridled Belle (G1), Furthest Land (G1), Fleet Street Dancer (G1), Purge (G1), Vindication (G1), Cajun Beat (G1), Forest Danger (G1), Quiet Temper (G2), Jonesboro (G3) Le Grand Cru (G3), Eye of Taurus (G3)

Deep: refers to a lucency which is more invasive in the bone.

Shallow: refers to a lucency which is more superficial.

No shed: no fragments are visible at that time.

Shedding: small or large fragment(s) which are displaced from the bone.

MSR: Midsagittal ridge.

OCD: (osteochondritis dissecans) As a horse's long bones grow, the animal's body lays down a layer of smooth cartilage along the growth plates at the ends of bones which progressively converts to bone, forming the joint surfaces with thin cartilage covers.

OCD occurs when the cartilage surface of the growing long bone and joints does not develop completely to form a normal joint surface, leaving thickened cartilage on a particular surface. At this point, the descriptive term should be



“osteochondrosis,” but not an OCD. However, if the abnormally thickened cartilage separates from the parent bone (dissicans formation), it becomes an OCD. Osteochondrosis (non-separated lesions) routinely heal unless disrupted. (Cont. page 15)

Dessicans lesions (true OCD) rarely heal. Using the term OCD to refer to both non-separated lesions and separated lesions creates confusion about which conditions have a chance to heal and which are typically permanent.

Please see the ***Plain and Simple Booklet: OCDs in Sale Horses*** for more information.

Rachel Alexandra (G1), Lookin At Lucky (G1), Dancing In Silks (G1), Thorn Song (G1), Speightstown (G1), Cajun Beat (G1), Bandini (G1), Pioneer of the Nile (G1), Favorite Trick (G1), Homeboykris (G1), Unbridled's Song(G1), Vindication (G1), Officer (G1), Zavata (G2)

OCD Flap: A fragment of bone or cartilage which has separated from its parent bone, but is still partially attached to the parent bone.

Lookin At Lucky (G1)

Osteoarthritis: Describes a progressive series of changes that occur to joints and their cartilage surfaces typically leading to painful loss of joint function. In horses, osteoarthritis is most often secondary to debris created by the presence of fragments (OCD's or chip fractures) within the joint.



RC: Radio carpal bone (knee).

Roughening: Appears as an irregular margin in the radiograph. This can be in the joint or may appear outside the joint.

Saratoga Sinner (G3)

Rough Joint Surface: Indicates a loss of normal smoothness to an articular surface. Can occur due to trauma or may be developmental in young horses.

Remodeling: Radiographic description indicating change in the normal bone shape or density.

Backtalk (G2)

Sclerosis: Appears as lighter (or whiter) in a radiograph, due to greater calcium content than normal and increased radiographic density. This may mean that the bone is stronger or weaker than normal.

Sesamoiditis: Describes some degree of inflammation of the ligamentous attachments to the sesamoid bones at the back of the fetlock joint (the sesamoid bones act as 'pulleys' for the suspensory ligament as it passes over the back of the fetlock joint).

Lookin At Lucky (G1), Furthest Land (G1), Sugar Swirl (G2), Proud Citizen (G2), Da Tara (G1), Acting Lady (G1), Magnificent Song (G1), Thorn Song (G1), Speightstown (G1), Forest Danger (G1), Furthest Land (G1), Lord Shanakill (G1), Fatal Bullet (G3), My Princess Jess (G3)



Sesamoid Fracture: Sesamoid bones act as 'pulleys' for the suspensory ligament as it passes over the back of the fetlock joint. A fracture of the sesamoid often involves an injury to the suspensory ligament insertion. Depending on the severity of the injury, surgery can be performed to treat the fracture.

Sesamoid bones are wider at the base and taper to a narrower top. Sesamoid fractures will often be referred to as "apical" (at the top), "mid body" (in the middle) or "basilar" (at the bottom). Basilar fractures may occur when a foal is young and its sesamoids are soft and it runs on hard ground keeping up with the mother. Fortunately, young foals' bones are very resilient and fractures often heal sufficiently well to result in racing soundness.

Assessment (G3), Premium Tap (G1)

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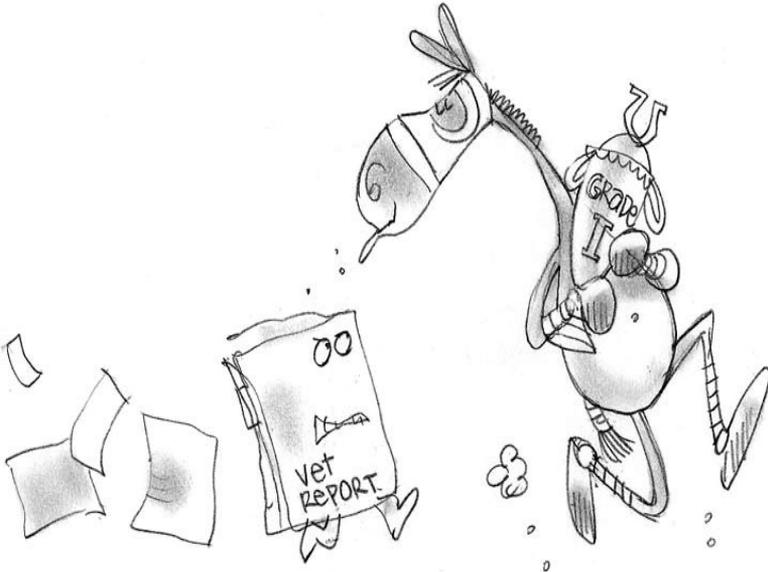
Spavin: (same as tarsitis) Osteoarthritis, or a phase of degenerative joint disease (DJD). It usually affects the two lowest joints of the hock (the tarsometatarsal and the distal intertarsal joints).

Tarsitis: A term that refers specifically to the hocks. Precursor of the condition that eventually results in spavin. Almost always indicated in distal intertarsal and tarsal-metatarsal joints (TMT). Refers to some type of reactive change. May be an acceptable finding in some cases.

Round Pond (G1), Ariege (G1)

Transverse: Divides the body into cranial and caudal.

Ventral: Side of the body closest to the ground.





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The CBA: “None of us are as strong as all of us.”

Unlike many alphabet organizations, the CBA is a grass roots organization founded by everyday hardworking horsemen who have a lot of “skin in the game.” In order to have vital representation for improving the public sales scene for all participants, the CBA was formed to give horsemen a seat at the table. Individually, breeders and consignors have little influence on the rules and regulations that affect them. As CBA members, however, horsemen have the strength of a unified voice that works for every consignor and commercial breeder, large and small.

The membership of the CBA has grown to over 300 members who breed or consign 80% of the total value of yearlings, weanlings, and breeding stock sold each year at public auction in North America. The CBA has successfully developed a strong working relationship with Keeneland, Fasig Tipton, KTA/KTOB and other influential industry organizations in order to create an increasingly viable sales scene. Standing united, we can effectively use our influence to benefit all sales participants.

Your support is essential as the CBA strengthens its voice and pursues its important initiatives. **Join now!**

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**Need a term defined that did not appear in this book?
Have suggestions for our next booklet project?**

Jot them down below and send this form to the CBA or you can email us at info@consignorsandbreeders.com.





Mission Statement:

The CBA works democratically on behalf of every consignor and commercial breeder, large and small, to provide representation and a constructive, unified voice related to sales issues, policies, and procedures. The Association's initiatives are designed to encourage a fair and expanding marketplace for all who breed, buy, or sell thoroughbreds.



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