

groups, one above the spinal column and the other below. The muscles above the spine assist the animal in running, jumping and rearing. The muscles below the spine are sometimes called the lumbar, or psoæ, situated below the lumbar bones, or the bones of the small of the back. Below these muscles are the kidneys. The action of these muscles is to assist the animal in getting up. These muscles are important, for when paralyzed the horse cannot use his hindquarters in trying to get up.

The Gluteal Muscles, or the muscles of the hip, are very large, filling in around the hip bones. The action of these is much the same as those of the back, as they assist in jumping, running, rearing, and in raising the hind leg.

The Abdominal Muscles, or belly muscles, are four large, flat muscles on each side of the abdomen, or belly. The outer edge of these muscles are attached to the outer ends of the false ribs, also to the processes of the lumbar bones and the outer angles of the hip bones. They unite below to what is called the linea alba, which is a hard, white, fibrous cord, and is attached in front to the back part of the breast-bone, passing back in the centre of the belly, and is attached to the front of the pubic bones, or what is called the lower bones of the hip cavity. About ten inches from where it is attached here, passing forward, we find a small slit, or hole, which is called the navel, or umbilical opening, where the naval vessels pass in and out during the foetus life, or before the colt is foaled. This is a point of importance to note, for sometimes at the time of birth this opening does not close and allows the bowels to come down and form what is known as navel, or umbilical rupture.

Before finishing the description of this group of muscles we will mention a very large, important ligament which is found spread all over the abdomen, or belly, of the horse. It is of a yellowish color and about one-eighth of an inch thick, attached in front to the back of the breast bone and to the hip bones behind. This is the first structure seen after removing the skin from the belly. This ligament gives great support to the organs contained in the abdominal cavity. The action, or uses, of the abdominal muscles are to support the organs contained in the abdominal cavity, to flex the back-bone and assist in the passing of the fæces, or manure. In the mare these muscles assist her in foaling, or parturition.