

Carpus, or Knee.—This is a very important joint, constructed of eight bones, having two rows, four in each, held together by strong, short ligaments. Thus we have three separate articular surfaces in this joint. The top side of the upper row articulates with the bone of fore arm; this surface gives the most motion to the knee. Another articulation between the two rows of bones gives slight motion to the knee, but not so much as the upper articular surface. Between the lower part of the lower row of bones and the upper part of metacarpal, or shin bones is another articular surface which gives slight motion to the knee. This joint has a large capsular ligament, and has binding ligaments inside and outside. The action of this joint is the same as elbow joint.

Fetlock Joint.—This is formed above by the lower part of the shin, or metacarpal bone, and below by the upper part of the large pastern bone. At the back of this joint we have two small bones called the sesamoid bones. This joint has a capsular and two lateral binding ligaments. The motion of this joint is backwards and forwards, same as knee.

Pastern Joint.—This joint is situated just above the hoof, and is formed by the lower end of the large pastern bone and the upper end of the small pastern bone. It has a capsular and lateral binding ligaments, same as fetlock joint. It also has same motion as fetlock joint, and is sometimes the seat of what is termed a high ringbone.

Coffin Joint.—This joint is situated within the hoof of the horse. It is formed above by the lower end of the small pastern bone, and below by the upper part of the foot bone, or os pedis. Immediately behind this joint, and articulating with the other two bones, we have the navicular, or shuttle bone—it gets its name from its likeness to the shuttle of a sewing machine. This bone is the seat of navicular disease, or otherwise called coffin-joint lameness, and also is affected with what is sometimes called a low-down ringbone.

JOINTS OF HIND LEG.

Hip Joint.—This is a ball-and-socket joint, similar to shoulder joint. It has a capsular ligament and what is called a round ligament, in the joint, holding the head of the bone in the socket, which can be seen plainly on examining the joint. This is an important ligament, as it often becomes strained, which is the seat of hip joint lameness. It is also held together by the heavy muscles of the hip. Its motion is similar to that of shoulder joint.