

What is Equine Lameness?

Equine lameness refers to a horse being incapable of normal locomotion, thus, abnormal gait/ stance. Lameness can be described as a clinical sign rather than a disease. It is a manifestation of pain, mechanical restriction on movement, or even due to a neuromuscular disease. The most common cause of lameness is pain which can be caused by discomfort coming from any part of the limb that contains nerve endings, pain from skin wounds, muscle pain, inflammation of the joints, and bone injury. In turn, these can all result in a change in the horses' gait. Certain breeds or disciplines can predispose horses to lameness. Forelimb lameness is thought to be easier to diagnose as compared to hindlimb lameness.