**Nerves for Distal Hindlimb**

The equine distal hindlimb has similar distribution to the distal forelimb, except for some extra dorsal sensory branches.

**Tibial nerve:** supplies all the muscles of the caudal leg and sensory to the plantar aspect of the pes. Just proximal to the talocrural joint the tibial nerve divides into medial and lateral plantar nerves.

**Planter nerves (medial and lateral):** as the palmar nerves pass distally on the sides of the flexor tendons. They continue as do the palmar nerves to the heel region of the foot as the digital nerves.

**Deep branch of the lateral plantar nerve:** similar to the deep branch of the lateral palmar nerve in the forelimb. It passes deep and branches into the medial and lateral plantar metatarsal nerves.

**Medial and lateral plantar metatarsal nerves:** lie against the metatarsal bones. They pass further distally then the metacarpal nerves to innervate the pastern and possibly the coronet.

**Communicating branch:** connects medial and lateral plantar nerves, it may be absent.

**Plantar digital nerves (medial and lateral):** continuations of the plantar nerve to the heel region of the foot. The neurovascular bundle is arranged as in the thoracic limb- vein, artery and nerve (VAN).

**Dorsal branches of the plantar digital nerves:** as in the front limb arise at the fetlock joint and extend to the toe region of the foot.

**Caudal cutaneous sural nerve:** passes on the dorsolateral side of the limb of the fetlock (comparable to the dorsal branch of the ulnar nerve in the thoracic limb).

**Saphenous nerve:** passes in the dorsomedially side of metatarsus to the fetlock (comparable to the medial cutaneous antebrachial nerve in the thoracic limb).

**Common peroneal nerve:** a branch of the ischiatic nerve, it branches into superficial and deep peroneal nerves at the proximal leg near the stifle.

**Superficial peroneal (fibular) nerve:** passes distally between the long and lateral digital extensor muscles to the fetlock (no comparable nerve in the thoracic limb).

**Deep peroneal (fibular) nerve:** passes deep to reach the tibia and travel distally with the cranial tibial artery below the extensor muscles and tendons. At the tarsus, it divides to become the medial and lateral dorsal metatarsal nerves, which continue in the junction between the cannon and splint bones (MtII-IV) to the digits. They pass the fetlock to the pastern and toe of foot.

**Medial and lateral dorsal metatarsal nerves:** continues to the junction between the cannon and splint bones (MtII-IV) to the digits. They pass the fetlock to the pastern and toe (no comparable nerves in the forelimb).

