**Extensors**

**Long Digital Extensor Tendon**

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| Origin | Insertion | Action |
| Long digital extensor muscle proximal and dorsolateral to the [tarsus](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) (hock) | Extensor process of [distal phalanx](https://en.wikivet.net/Phalanges_-_Horse_Anatomy#Distal_Phalanx) | Extends the digit, flexes the [tarsus](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) |

The long digital extensor tendon extends distally on the dorsolateral aspect of the [tarsus](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) and [metatarsus](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) , surrounded by a synovial sheath from mid-[tarsus](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) to 3-4cm distal to the [tarsus](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) . The branches of the interosseous muscle (suspensory ligament) join this tendon before its insertion on the extensor process of the [distal phalanx](https://en.wikivet.net/Phalanges_-_Horse_Anatomy#Distal_Phalanx). The long digital extensor tendon is joined by the lateral digital extensor tendon in the proximal metatarsal region.

**Lateral Digital Extensor Tendon**

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| Origin | Insertion | Action |
| Lateral digital extensor muscle proximal and lateral to the [tarsus](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) (hock) | Dorsal [proximal phalanx](https://en.wikivet.net/Phalanges_-_Horse_Anatomy#Proximal_Phalanx) | Aids long digital extensor in digit extension and [tarsal](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) flexion |

The lateral digital extensor tendon passes over the lateral aspect of the [hock](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) , held in place by the extensor retinaculum and surrounded by a protective synovial sheath. It joins the long digital extensor tendon in the proximal metatarsal region.

**Flexors**

**Cunean Tendon**

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| Origin | Insertion | Action |
| Cranial tibial muscle in the distal [tibia](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Tibia_and_Fibula)/proximal [talus](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Tarsal_Bones) region | Medially on the fused first and second [tarsal bones](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Tarsal_Bones) | Aids [tarsal](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) flexion |

In the horse, the medial insertion of the cranial tibial muscle (tibialis cranialis) is known as the cunean tendon. There is an associated synovial fluid-filled space known as the cunean bursa, which is also species specific.

**Common Calcaneal Tendon**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Origin | Insertion | Action of Components |
| Caudal to the stifle joint | **Calcanean tuberosity** | *Biceps femoris*: Extends the [hip](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) , abducts the limb, extends the [stifle](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) , flexes the [stifle](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) (via caudal aspect) and extends the [hock](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb).  *Abductor cruris caudalis*: Abducts proximal limb and flexes the [stifle](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb).  *Semitendinosus*: Extends the [hip](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) , adducts and draws back the limb, extends the [stifle](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) and [hock](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb).  *Semimembranosus*: Extends the [hip](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) , adducts and draws back the limb, rotates limb inward, extends the [stifle](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) and [hock](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb).  *Gastrocnemius*: Flexes the [stifle](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) and extends the [hock](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb). |

The common calcaneal tendon is the continuation of the ‘hamstring’ group of muscles (*biceps femoris*, *abductor cruris caudalis*, *semitendinosus*, *semimembranosus*, *gastrocnemius*and *SDFT*) on the caudal aspect of the proximal limb.

The synovial fluid-filled calcanean bursa lies between the SDFT and the calcanean tuberosity.

**Peroneus Tertius**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Origin | Insertion | Action |
| Extensor fossa of [femur](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Femur) | Dorsal insertion on the proximal region of the [third metatarsal](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Metacarpals_and_Metatarsals) (cannon) and [third tarsal](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Tarsal_Bones) bones. Lateral insertion on the [calcaneus](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Tarsal_Bones) and [fourth tarsal](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Tarsal_Bones) bone | Passively flexes the [tarsus](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) when the [stifle](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) is flexed |

The peroneus tertius is an entirely tendinous structure in the horse, forming an important component of the [reciprocal apparatus](https://en.wikivet.net/Stay_Apparatus_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) . It acts to passively flex the [tarsus](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) when the [stifle](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy" \l "Pelvic_Limb" \o "Joints and Ligaments - Horse Anatomy)is flexed. The tendon forms a loop, through which the tendon of the tibialis cranialis passes. It then bifurcates at the level of the [talus](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Tarsal_Bones) into dorsal and lateral branches. The dorsal branch passes deep to the cunean tendon to insert on the [third metatarsal](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Metacarpals_and_Metatarsals) (cannon) and [third tarsal](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Tarsal_Bones) bones. The lateral branch extends distally, deep to the long digital extensor tendon and runs laterally distal to the lateral ridge of the trochlea of the [talus](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Tarsal_Bones). This lateral branch then bifurcates to insert on the [calcaneus](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Tarsal_Bones) and [fourth tarsal](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Tarsal_Bones) bone.

**Superficial Digital Flexor Tendon**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Origin | Insertion | Action |
| Proximal/mid-tibia | Calcanean tuberosity and [middle phalanx](https://en.wikivet.net/Phalanges_-_Horse_Anatomy#Middle_Phalanx) | Extends the digit, assists in extending the [hock](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) and flexing the [stifle](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) as part of the [reciprocal apparatus](https://en.wikivet.net/Stay_Apparatus_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) |

The superficial digital flexor tendon is a major component of the common calcaneal tendon, which forms part of the [reciprocal apparatus](https://en.wikivet.net/Stay_Apparatus_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb). The SDFT arises from the superficial digital flexor muscle in the proximal/mid-tibial region and passes around the gastrocnemius tendon caudally. At the point of the [hock](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb), the SDFT widens to form a cap over the calcanean tuberosity. The calcanean bursa is a synovial fluid-filled space formed between the calcanean tuberosity and the SDFT. Distal to the [calcaneus](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Tarsal_Bones), the SDFT continues as arranged in the thoracic limb to its point of insertion on the [middle phalanx](https://en.wikivet.net/Phalanges_-_Horse_Anatomy#Middle_Phalanx). In contrast to the thoracic limb, there is no accessory ligament of the SDFT in the pelvic limb.

**Deep Digital Flexor Tendon (DDFT)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Origin | Insertion | Action |
| Deep digital flexor muscle, distal to the [tarsus](https://en.wikivet.net/Joints_and_Ligaments_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) | Flexor cortex of [distal phalanx](https://en.wikivet.net/Phalanges_-_Horse_Anatomy#Distal_Phalanx) | Flexes the [distal phalanx](https://en.wikivet.net/Phalanges_-_Horse_Anatomy#Distal_Phalanx) |

The DDFT runs on the plantar aspect of the [metatarsus](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Metacarpals_and_Metatarsals) distally, over the [distal sesamoid](https://en.wikivet.net/Phalanges_-_Horse_Anatomy#Distal_Sesamoid_.28Navicular.29_Bone) (navicular bone). Its passage over the navicular bone is facilitated by the synovial fluid-filled navicular bursa before inserting on the flexor cortex of the [distal phalanx](https://en.wikivet.net/Phalanges_-_Horse_Anatomy#Distal_Phalanx). The accessory (check) ligament connects the DDFT to the [third metatarsal](https://en.wikivet.net/Limb_Bones_and_Cartilages_-_Horse_Anatomy#Metacarpals_and_Metatarsals) (cannon) bone. This forms part of the [stay apparatus](https://en.wikivet.net/Stay_Apparatus_-_Horse_Anatomy#Pelvic_Limb) by removing tension from the main body of the DDFT.