

Guidelines for observing movement in horses by Melín M. Farriols, CR Practitioner

A horse that moves, using his back:

- Movement is free through the back. There is good muscling over the topline. The horse can activate his abdominals.
- Head and neck are free and the horse can release and stretch his neck forward. The position of the head (either lower or higher) depends on the level of training.
- The weight is better distributed amongst all four legs.
- The front and back legs are connected, synchronized. Front and back legs have angles that are parallel to each other.



Here you can observe parallel angles between the front and the back legs



You observe that between the extremities the triangles drawn are equal

A horse that moves, using his legs:

- Back is tense
- Neck is high and tense
- He is swishing his tail
- On occasion the movements of the front legs are big and showy
- The hind legs are more behind, they cannot come under the mass of the body.
- The front legs and the hind legs are not working in parallel angles. The front legs are going more forward and with bigger movement than the hind legs, resulting in disconnected movements.



You observe that the angles between the front and hind legs are not parallel to each other. The front is advancing more than the back end.



You observe that the space between the front and back is very unequal. And the triangles are very different.