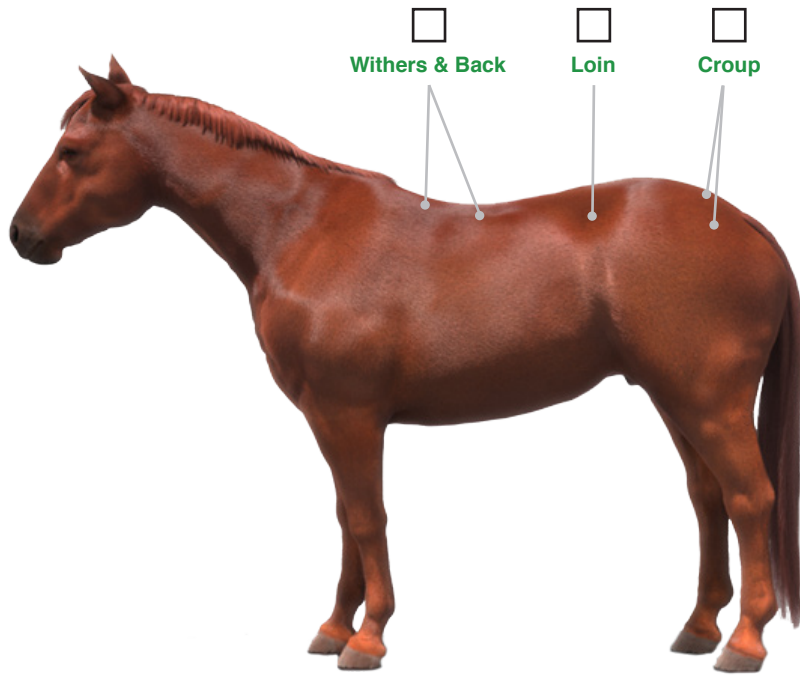


# TOPLINE EVALUATION SCORING (TES) METHOD



Place a check mark in each box that has adequate muscling to support the spine.

## Areas to Evaluate:

- Withers and back
  - Is the wither/back full and well rounded?
- Loin
  - Is the loin full, well rounded, and well developed?
- Croup
  - Are the croup and hip full and the stifle muscle well defined?

How many check marks do you have?

**3 = A   2 = B   1 = C   0 = D**

# A

IDEAL

## This horse has ideal muscle development:

- The topline muscles are well developed in all three areas, the spinal processes cannot be seen, and the muscles blend smoothly into the ribs
- The wither/back and loin of the horse is full and well rounded
- The croup and hip are full and the stifle muscle is well defined

# B

## The sides of the wither are concave, as is the back between the vertebrae and the top of the ribs:

- The loin muscles are well developed and are the same height as the spinal process
- The croup and the hip muscling is adequate; pelvis to point of hip is rounded

# C

## The wither/back and loin areas, between the vertebrae and the ribs, are concave:

- The “spinal process” in the loin area is higher than the muscles beside it and can easily be seen and palpitated
- Muscles over the croup and hindquarters are well developed and rounded

# D

## The entire topline, including the wither/back, loin, and croup areas, is concave:

- The croup appears pointed at the top since the vertebrae and hip bones are higher than the concave muscles in between them
- In a severely affected horse, the width of its stifle is narrower than the width of the point of hip