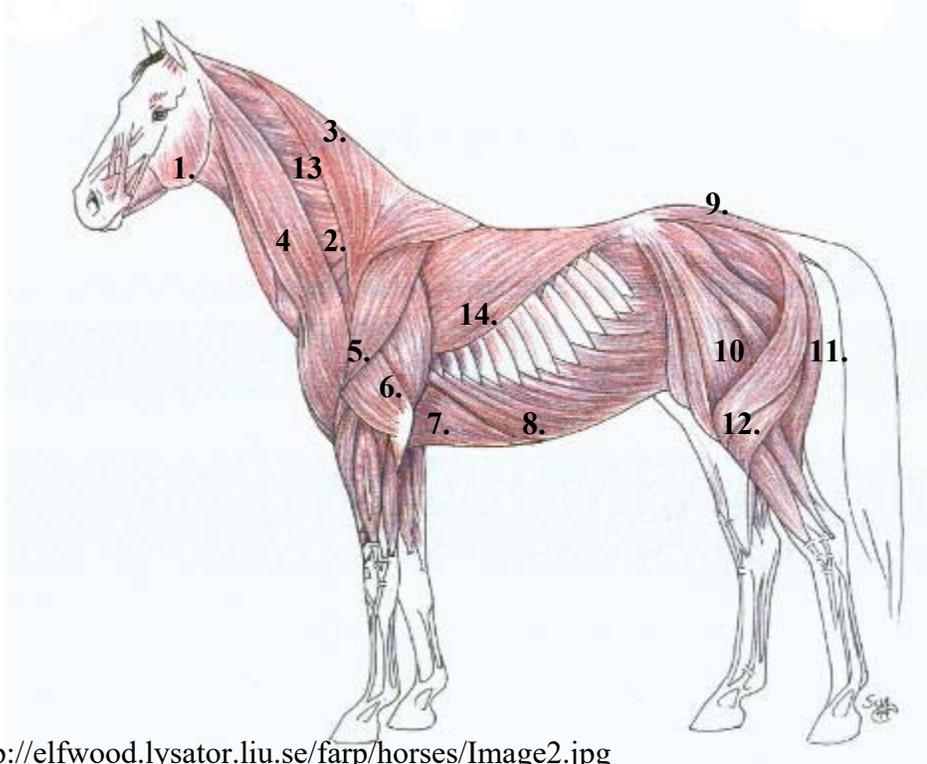


Muscular system



<http://elfwood.lysator.liu.se/farp/horses/Image2.jpg>

Superficial Skeletal Muscle:

1. Masseter muscles – In the cheek of the horse.
2. Serratus ventralis muscle- Located behind the lowest point of the shoulder before the limb extends past the body, approximately where the saddle girth would rest.
3. Trapezius- Extending along the top of the neck, triangularly down to the shoulder, and in the region of the withers. The neck portion covers the area above the vertebrae.
4. Brachiocephalic- Long muscle extending from the poll, along the neck, to the front of the shoulder.
5. Deltoid- Extends from the middle of the shoulder to the rear of it where the barrel begins.
6. Triceps- Extends from the elbow to the bottom of the shoulder blade.
7. Pectoral muscle- Positioned at the floor of the barrel extending from the shoulder backward, about half way down the barrel.
8. External abdominal oblique- Positioned around the lower part of the ribs, extending to the bottom of the rear portion of the barrel.
9. Gluteal Muscle- Halfway between the tail and hip bone, covers the top of the rump downward.
10. Tensor fasciae latae- Found along the front of the rear leg just below the hip.
11. Semitendinosus muscle- Located from the tailhead reaching to the top of the hock.

12. Biceps femoris muscle- Covers most of the side of the rump, just above where the leg extends past the body.
13. Splenius muscle- Found at the top of the neck, extending backwards toward the withers and shoulder.
14. Latissimus dorsi muscle- Along the back and down into the barrel, covering the front region of the rib cage and behind the shoulder.

The muscular system of a horse not only provides the ability to move, but it is responsible for heart contractions, breathing, and digestion. Muscles control all voluntary and involuntary movements of the horse's organs including the circulatory system to move blood throughout the body.

There are 3 types of muscle:

Cardiac- Involuntary muscles that contract the heart.

Smooth- Involuntary muscle that is responsible for the contraction of the circulatory, respiratory, and digestive systems.

Skeletal- Used mainly for a horse's voluntary movement, during walking and exercise. Horses have control of these muscles.

Here is another link you may be interested in to practice your skills:

http://theorythursday.com/1_Anatomy.htm