



Gaits of the Horse

The horse has FIVE natural gaits. Each one has a unique foot pattern, and may or may not have suspension.

Suspension = all feet off the ground at the same time

1 Walk

A 4-beat gait (LH, LF, RH, RF); each foot lands individually on the ground.

0 periods of suspension



2 Trot/Jog

A 2-beat gait (LH & RF, RH & LF); diagonal pairs of feet land together on the ground.

2 periods of suspension



3 Canter/Lope

A 3-beat gait (right lead: LH, RH & LF, RF), where one foot, then a pair of feet, then the final foot lands on the ground.

1 period of suspension



4 Gallop

A 4-beat gait (left lead: RH, LH, RF, LF), where each foot lands individually on the ground.

1 period of suspension



5 Back

A 2-beat gait, where diagonal pairs of feet land on the ground.

Artificial gaits include the pace, rack, running walk, and slow gait. These are natural to certain breeds.

The lead front foot determines foot pattern for canter & gallop