HORSE STIFLE
Caudal view, femur removed.
THE STIFLE JOINT OF THE HORSE

This specimen is of the left stifle joint of an adult horse after the femur has been removed to expose the ligaments and cartilages.

- **menisco-tibial ligament**: there are four of these ligaments, one from each horn of each meniscus.

- **cranial cruciate ligament**

- **lateral collateral ligament**: the remote attachment of this ligament (and its medial counterpart) to the epicondyles of tibia and femur allows a certain amount of axial rotation of the stifle joint.

- **lateral meniscus**: the menisci are stabilising, shock-absorbing pads which serve mainly to spread the load transmitted through the femur over an extensive surface.

- **fibula**: a vestigial bone in the horse.

- **menisco-femoral ligament**: this ligament restrains the stifle joint in full extension.

- **patella**: patellar cartilage

- **lateral patellar ligament**

- **middle patellar ligament**

- **medial patellar ligament**: notice the curved form of the medial ligament which allows it to wrap around the side of the medial lip of the femoral trochlea.

- **medial collateral ligament**

- **medial meniscus**

- **medial tibial condyle**: the tibial condyles are mostly flat to allow some rotation of the tibia on the femur.

- **caudal cruciate ligament**: the two cruciate ligaments stabilise the joint yet still allow both flexion-extension and rotation to occur.

- **tibia**

- **tibial condyles**: to allow some rotation on the femur.