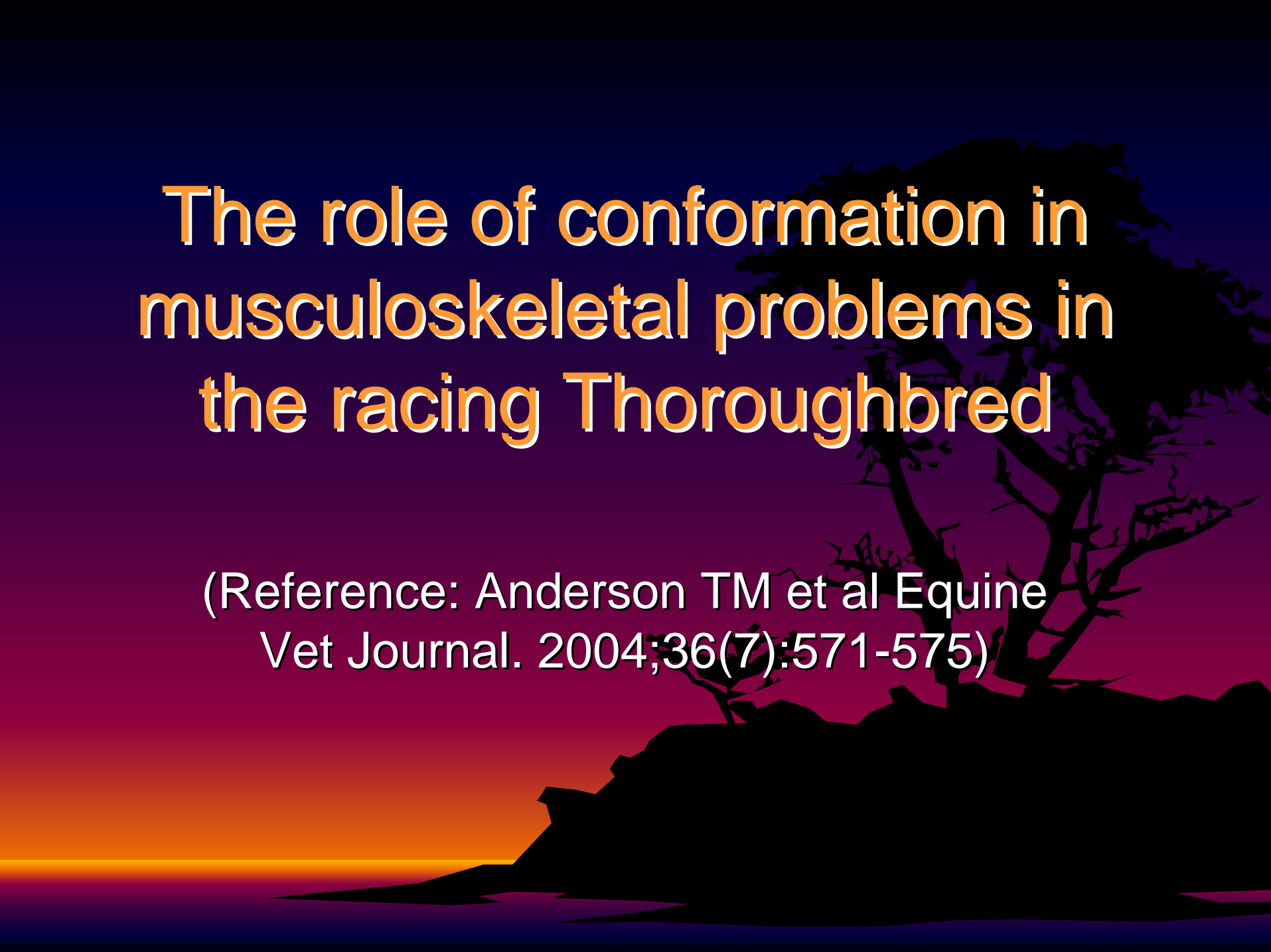


Effects of Conformation on Injury and Arthritis

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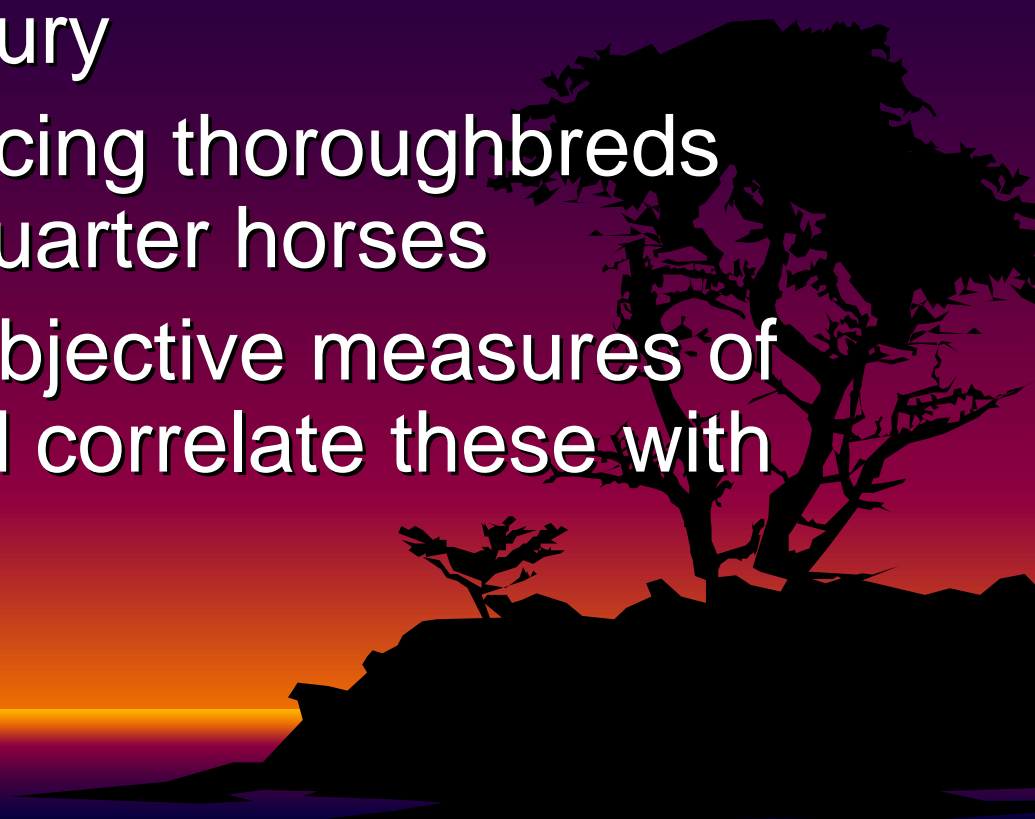
The background of the slide features a silhouette of a tree on the right side, set against a sunset or sunrise sky with a gradient from orange at the bottom to dark blue at the top. The title text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

The role of conformation in musculoskeletal problems in the racing Thoroughbred

(Reference: Anderson TM et al Equine Vet Journal. 2004;36(7):571-575)

The role of Conformation

- ✦ Recent study by Anderson et al (2004) has looked at the role of conformation in lameness and injury
- ✦ Looked at 115 racing thoroughbreds and 162 racing quarter horses
- ✦ Purpose: Make objective measures of conformation and correlate these with the risk of injury



Conformation: The knee

- ✦ As carpal valgus increased the risk of carpal effusion and fracture is *reduced*



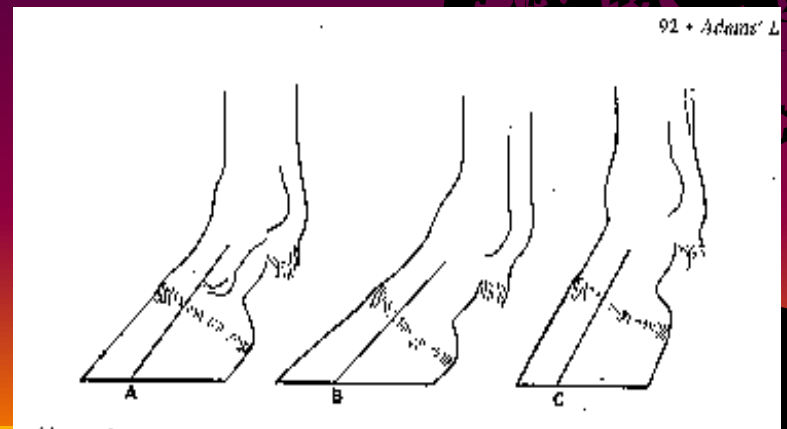
Conformation: Cannon & knee

- ✦ The further a knee is offset the greater the chance for fetlock problems



Conformation: Hoof & knee

- ✦ Long toes and underslung heels, were associated with knee chip fracture



92 + Adams' L

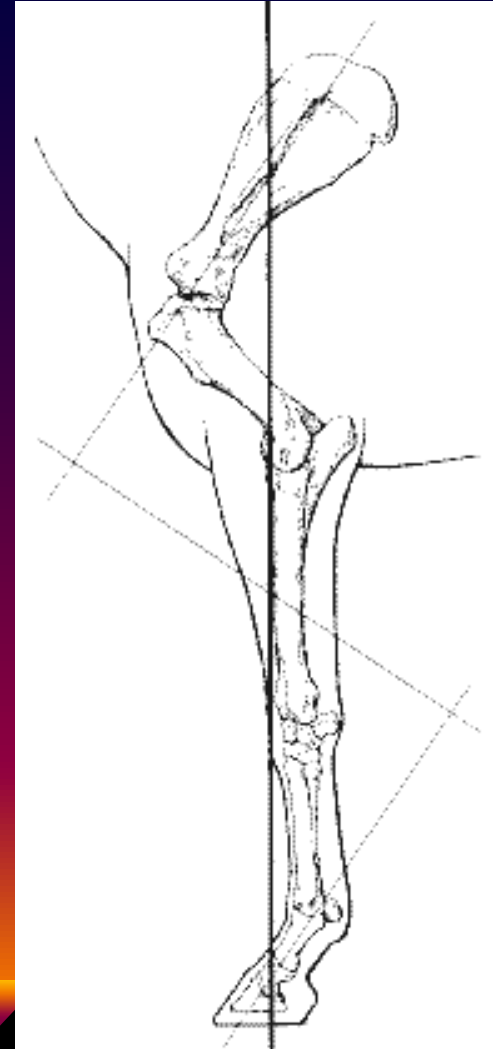
Conformation: Neck & fetlock

- ✦ Every inch increase in the length of the underside of the neck increased the risk of fetlock problems



Conformation: Shoulder & knee

- ✦ A longer scapula (shoulder) reduces the risk of carpal / knee chip fracture



Conformation: Shoulder & knee

- ✦ In quarter horses the shorter the distance from the shoulder to the ground the less likely they were to sustain a carpal fracture



Conformation: Shoulder, Fetlock & Knee

- ✦ In quarter horses a straighter shoulder increases the risk of fetlock fracture but the decreases the risk of carpal damage



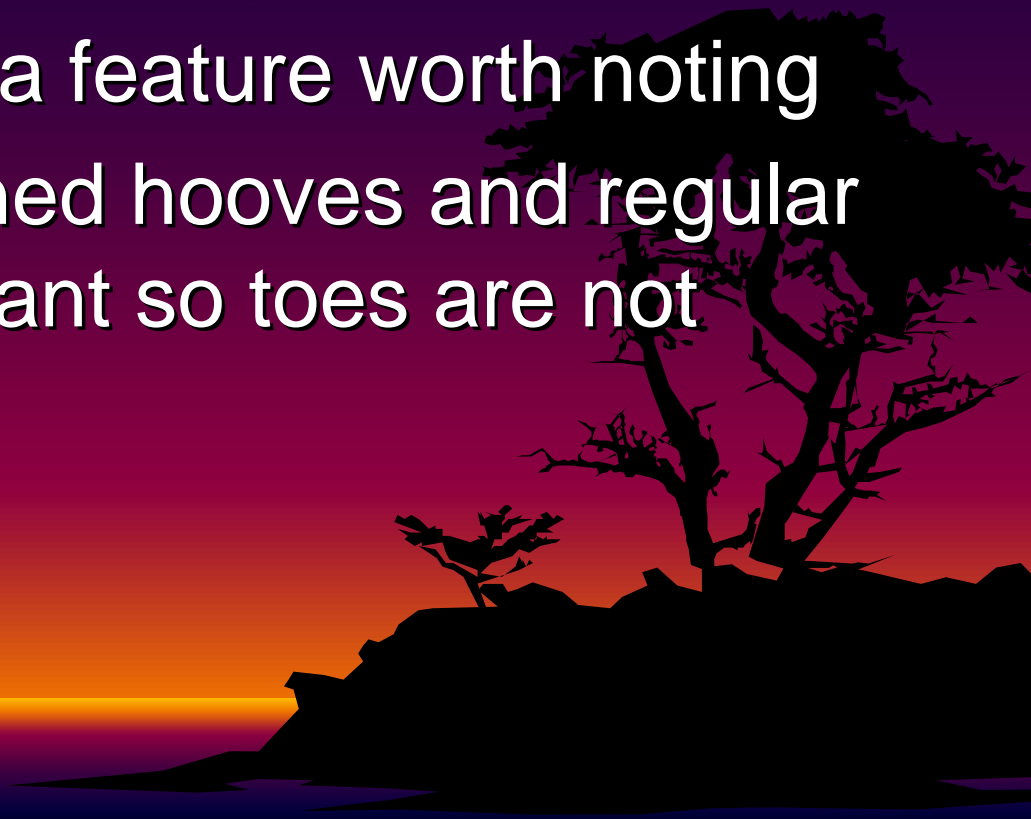
Conclusions

- ✦ Conformation is important
- ✦ It would appear different aspects of the conformation become more important in different equine disciplines
- ✦ Further studies are required to validate present findings



Conclusions

- ✦ Straight legs appear not to be ideal;
Some carpal valgus may be desirable
- ✦ Offset knees are a feature worth noting
- ✦ Properly maintained hooves and regular shoeing is important so toes are not long



References:

- ✦ Anderson TM, McIlwraith CW, Douay P.
Equine Veterinary Journal. 2004;36(7):571-575)

