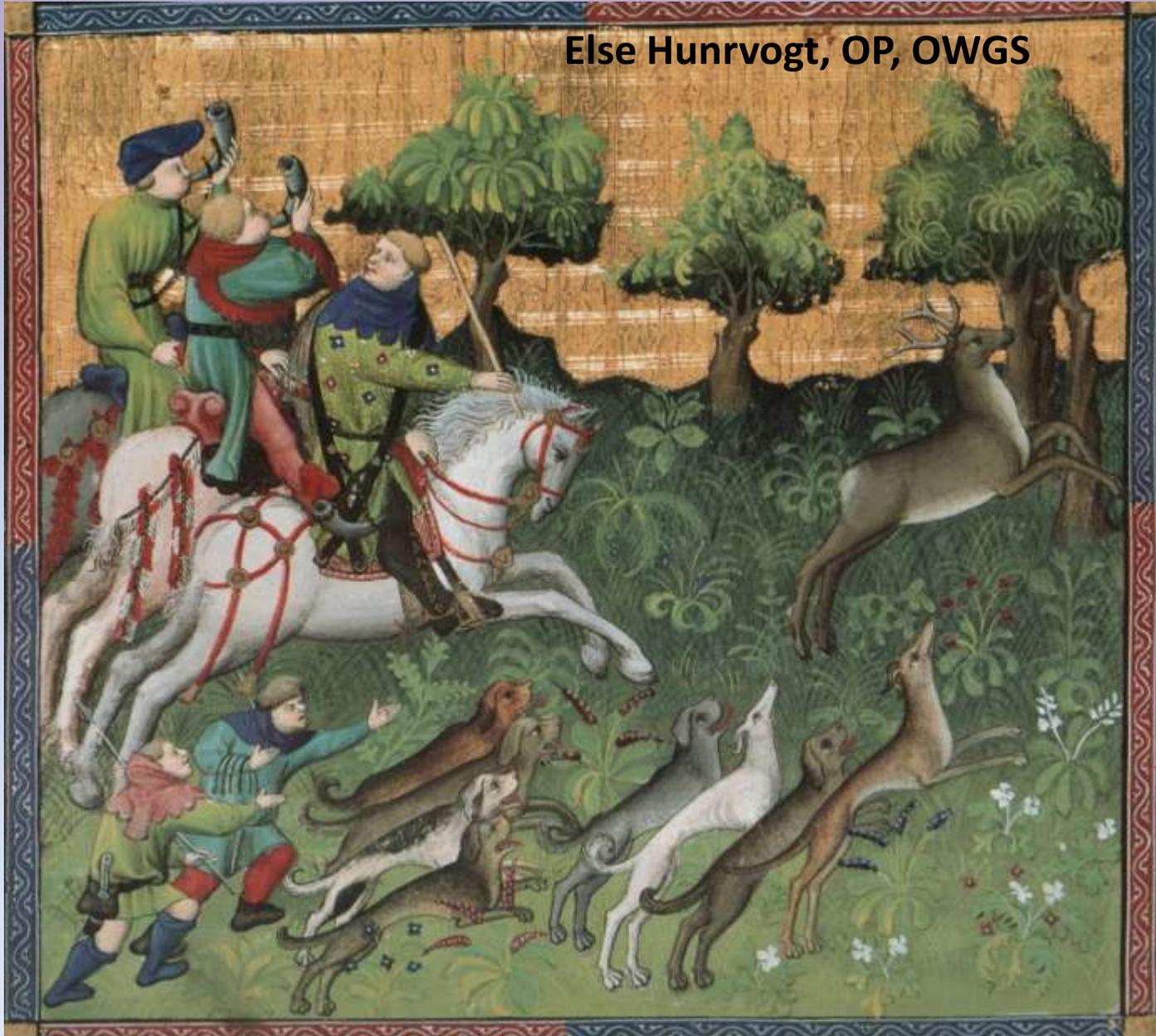


Gaston Phebus: Dressing Your Horse

Else Hunrvogt, OP, OWGS



There is a wide variety of bridles and strap barding represented in the manuscript



There are styles made from leather and fabric suitable to every horse, use, budget, and artisan skill level



Simple Bridle

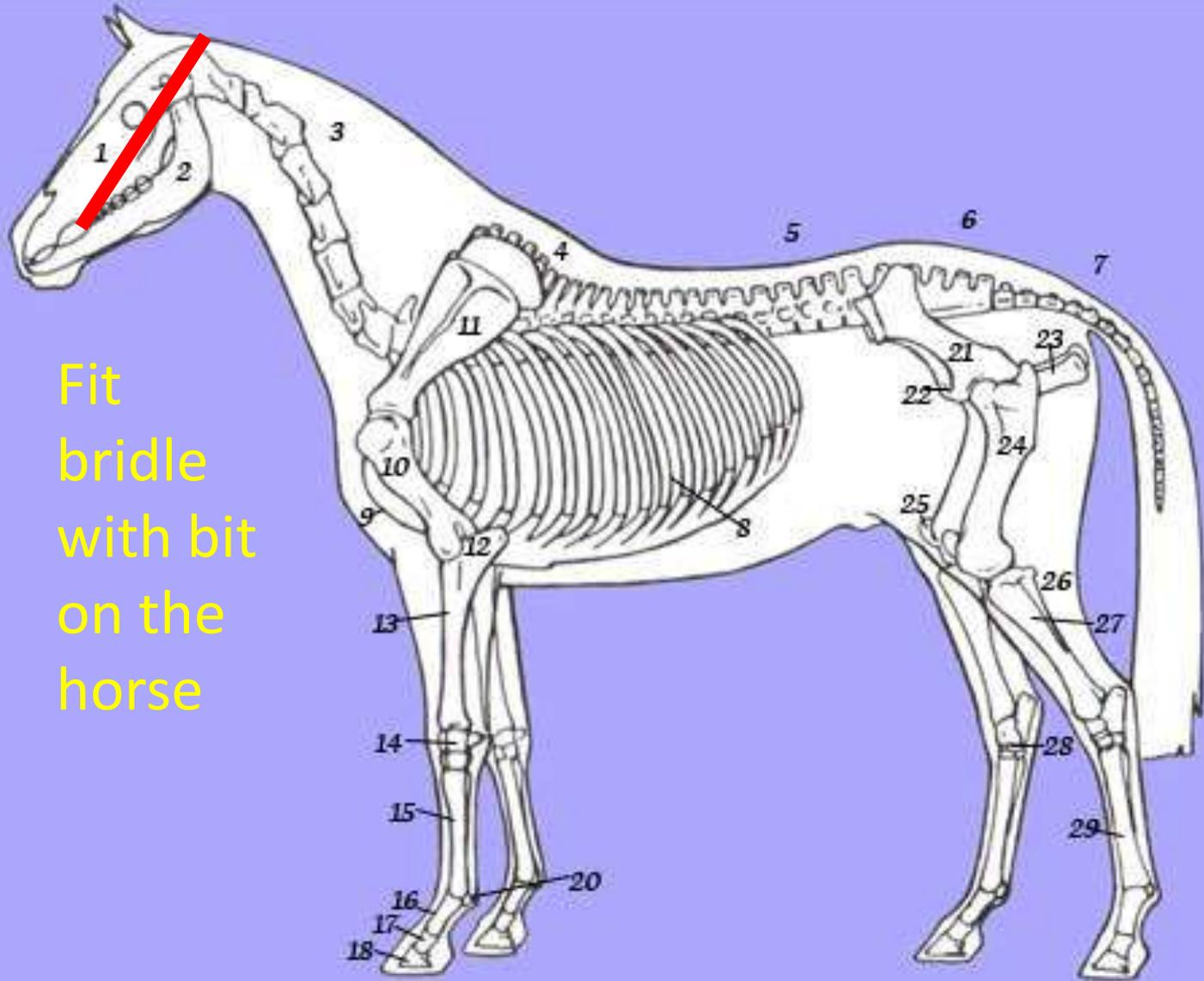


Measure or drape a strap to a bridle that fits well using the bit you plan to use.

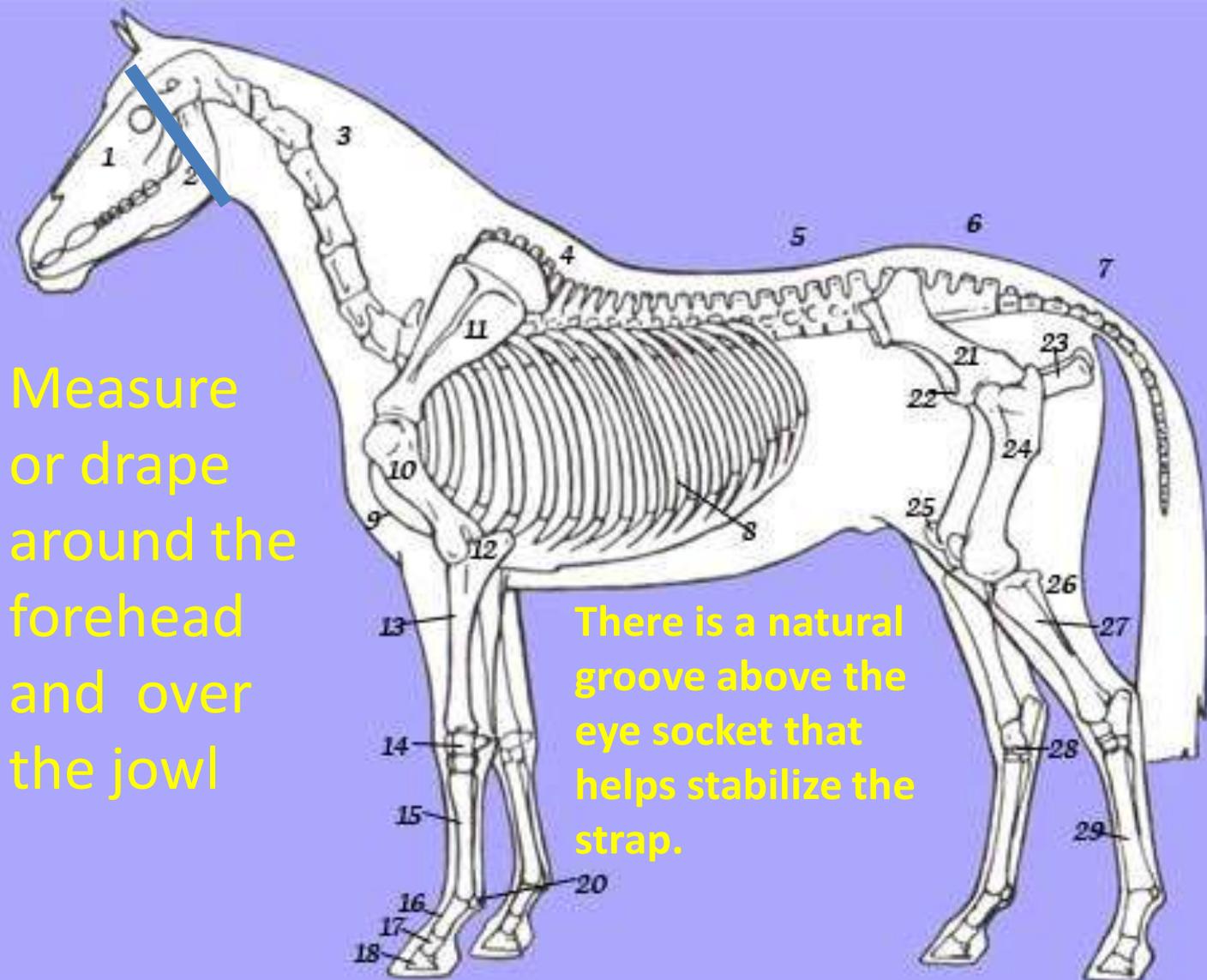


I left extra holes on the back to adjust for using with different bits or with different but similarly sized horses



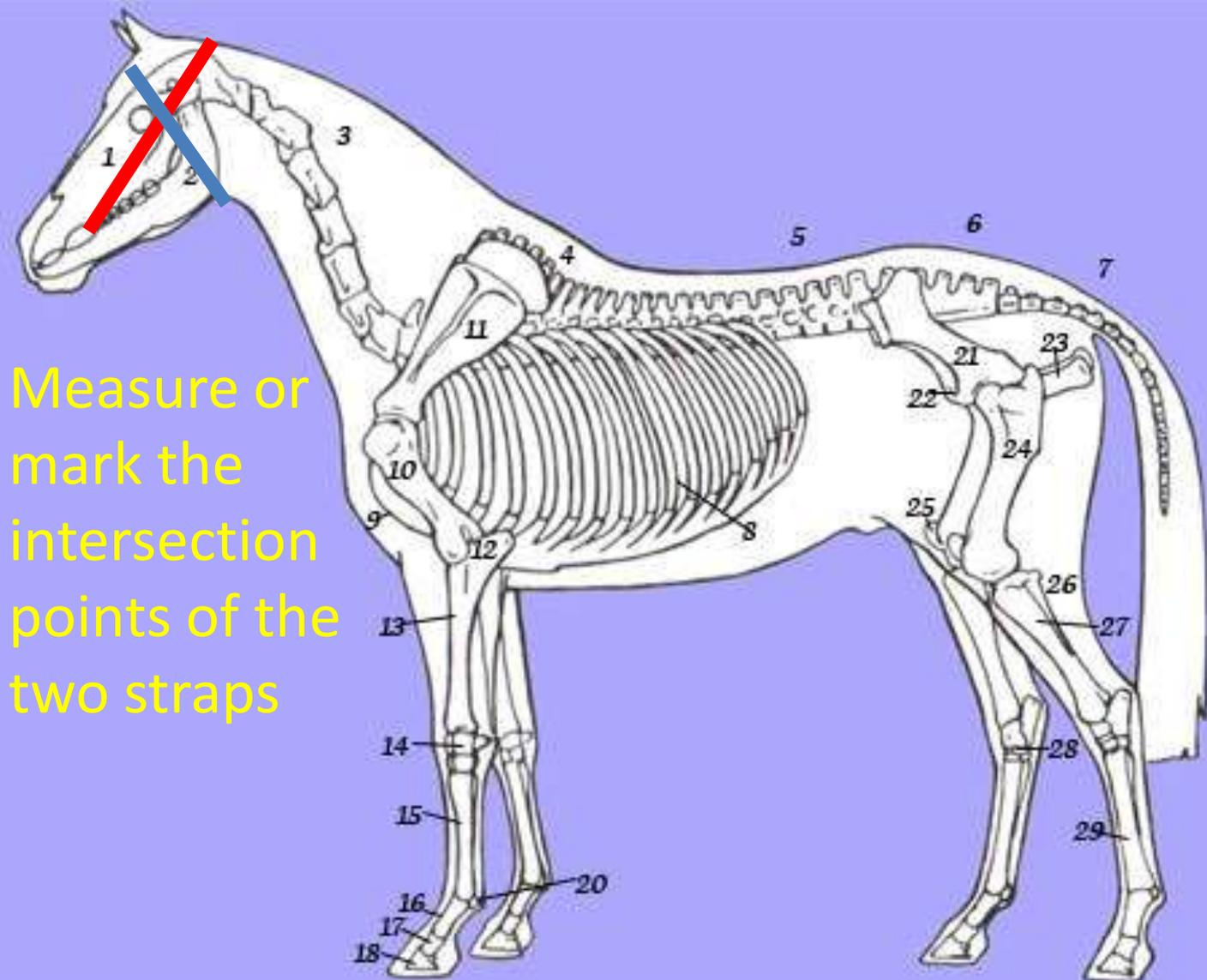


Fit
bridle
with bit
on the
horse



Measure
or drape
around the
forehead
and over
the jawl

There is a natural
groove above the
eye socket that
helps stabilize the
strap.



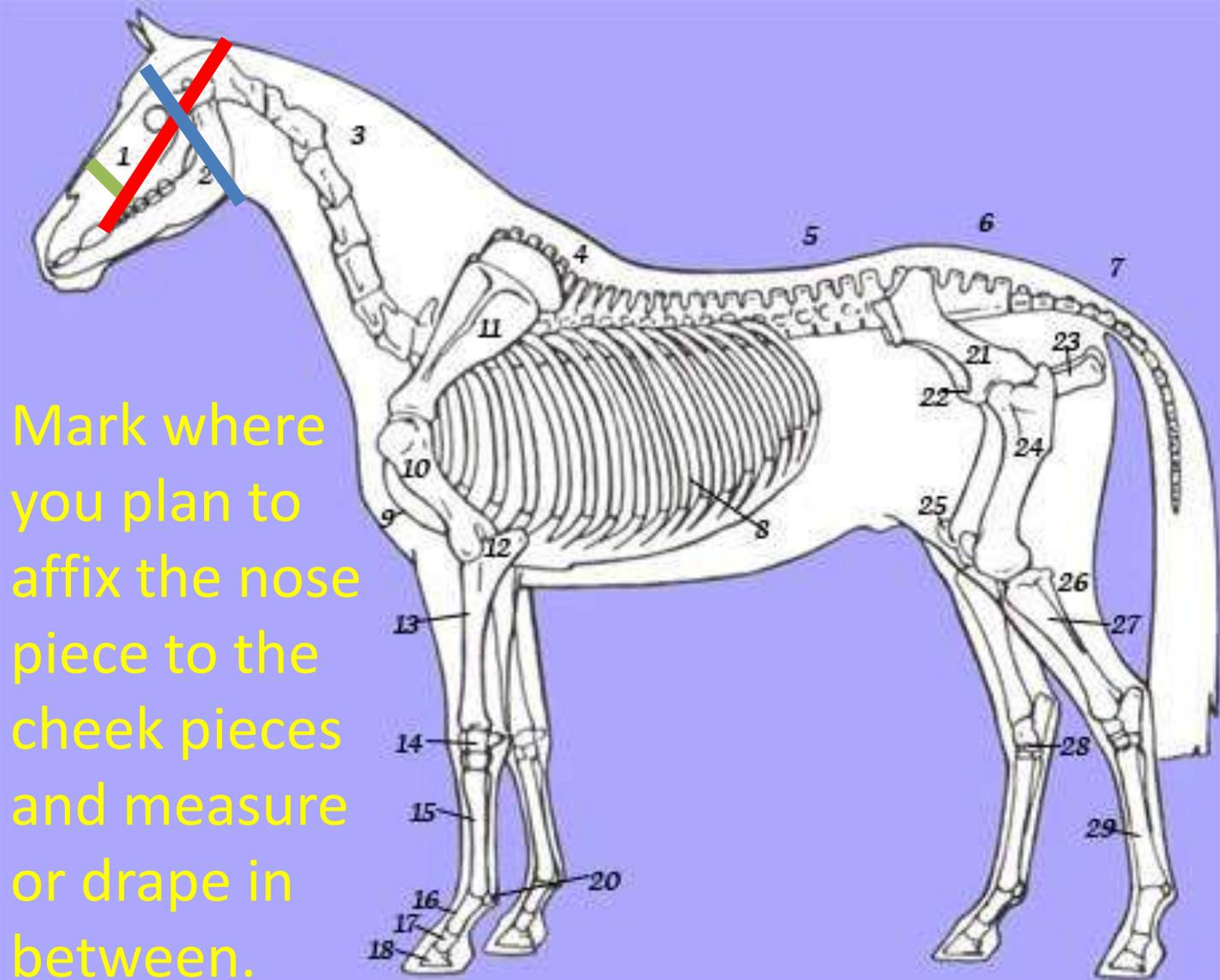
Measure or mark the intersection points of the two straps

Holes punched to affix the brow band/throat latch to the cheek piece/crown piece. Extra holes punched in the throat latch for using on different horses.



Some bridles appear to have a piece across the nasal cartilage that keeps the cheek pieces forward.



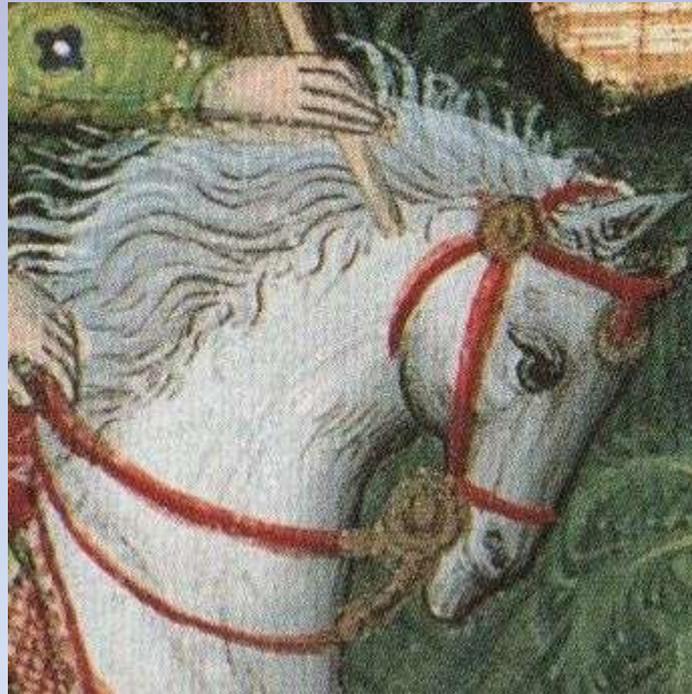


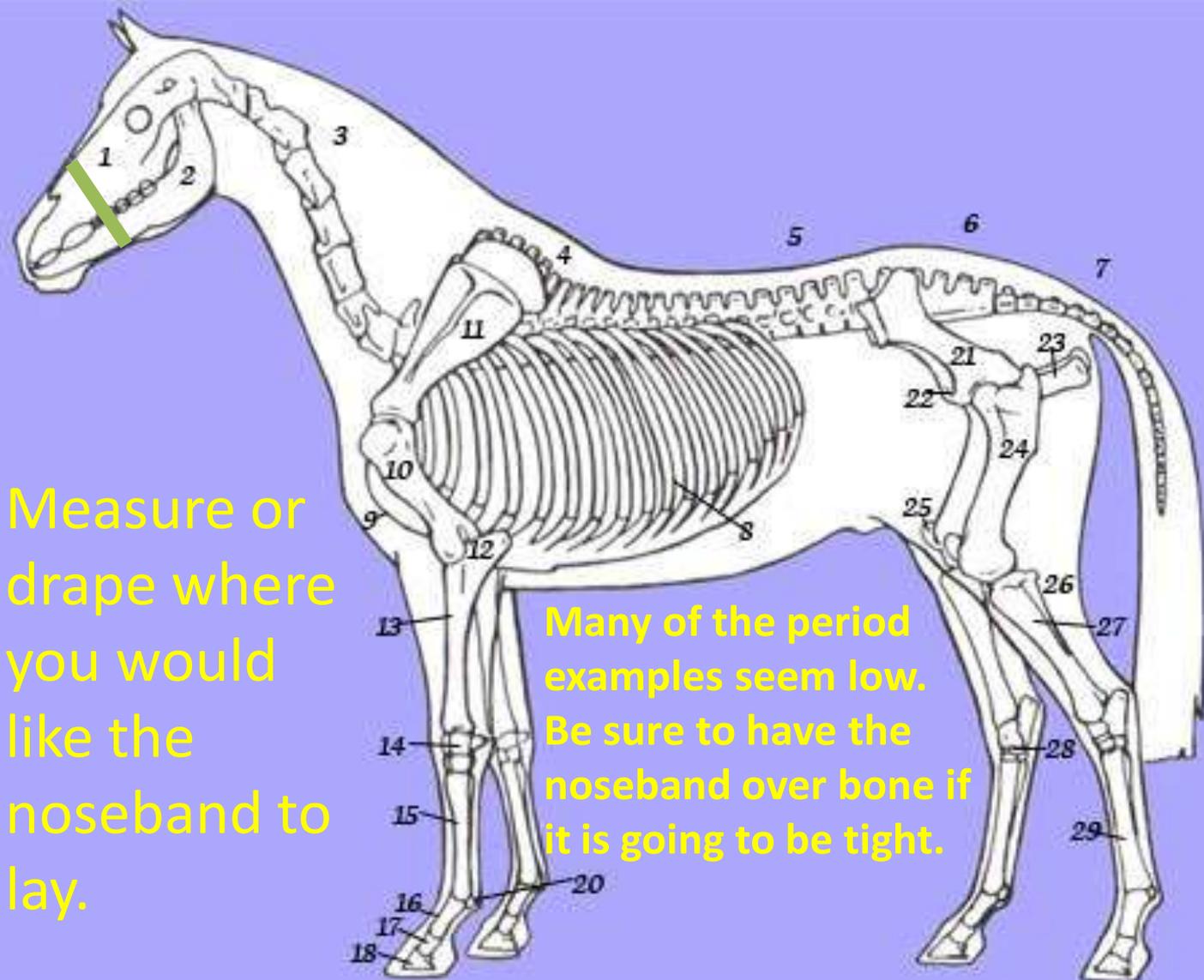
Mark where you plan to affix the nose piece to the cheek pieces and measure or drape in between.

For a nose piece only affix the noseband in place and do not continue the strap



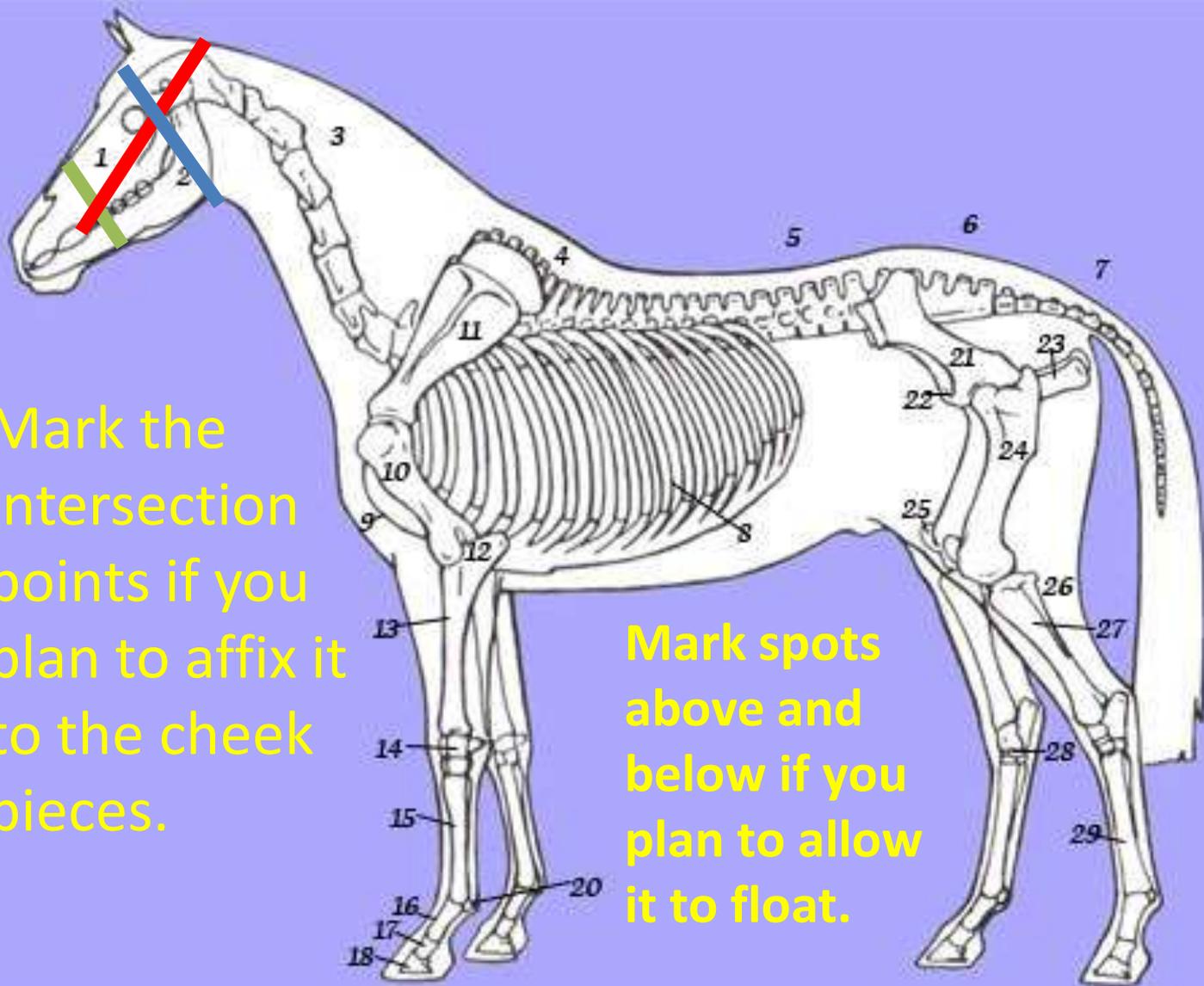
Others appear to have a full noseband.





Measure or drape where you would like the noseband to lay.

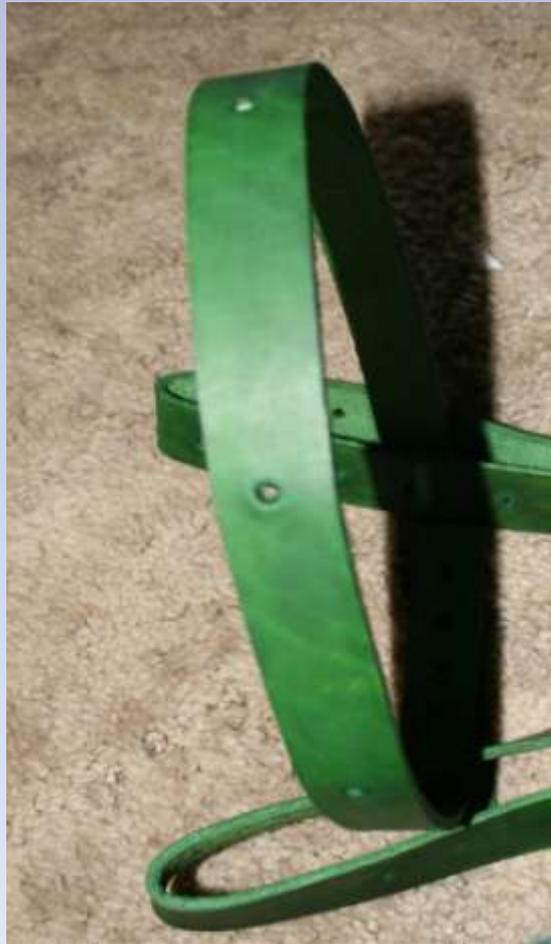
Many of the period examples seem low. Be sure to have the noseband over bone if it is going to be tight.



Mark the intersection points if you plan to affix it to the cheek pieces.

Mark spots above and below if you plan to allow it to float.

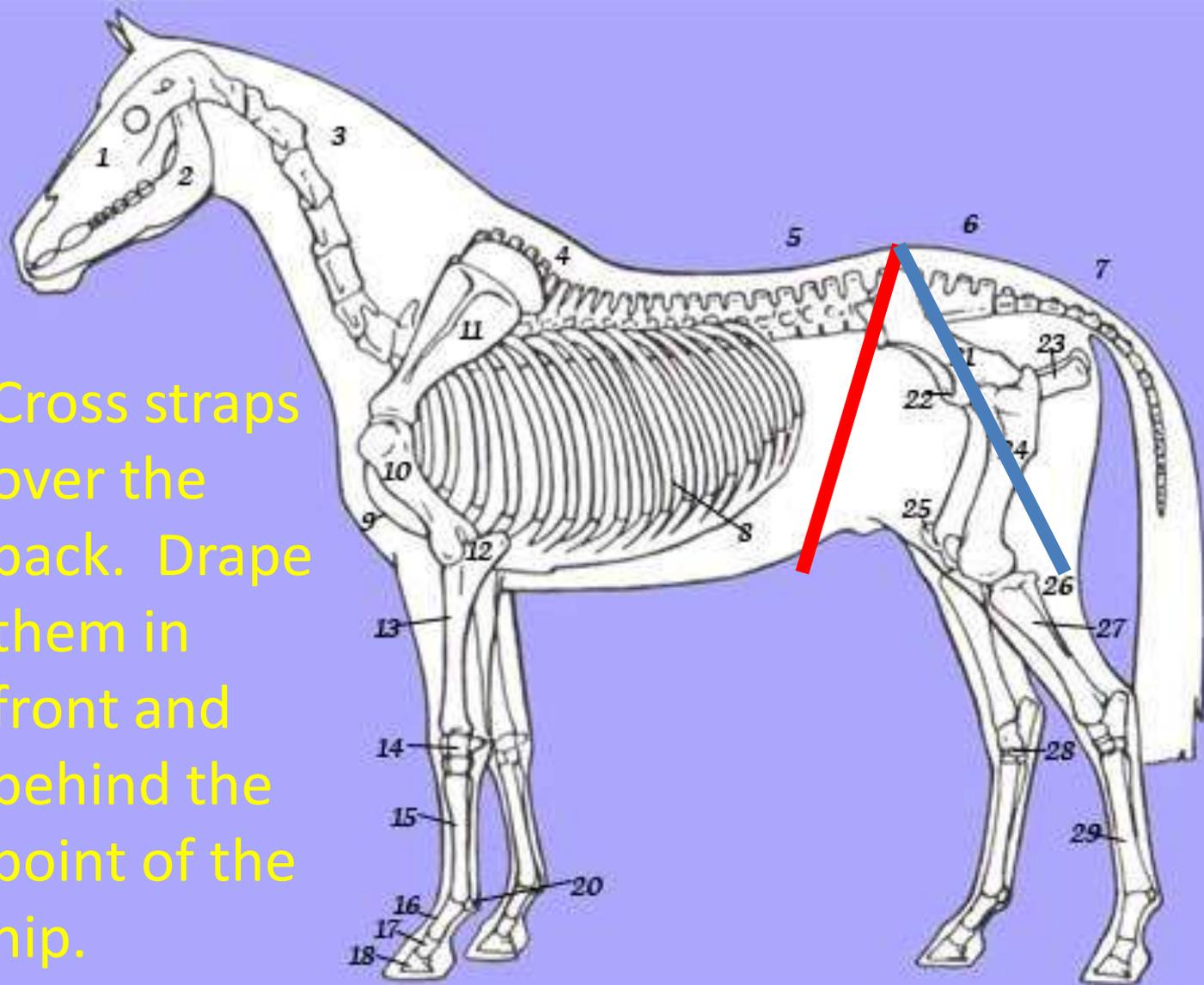
This cheek piece will have decorative elements above and below and the noseband will slide freely



Breeching with crossed hanger straps.

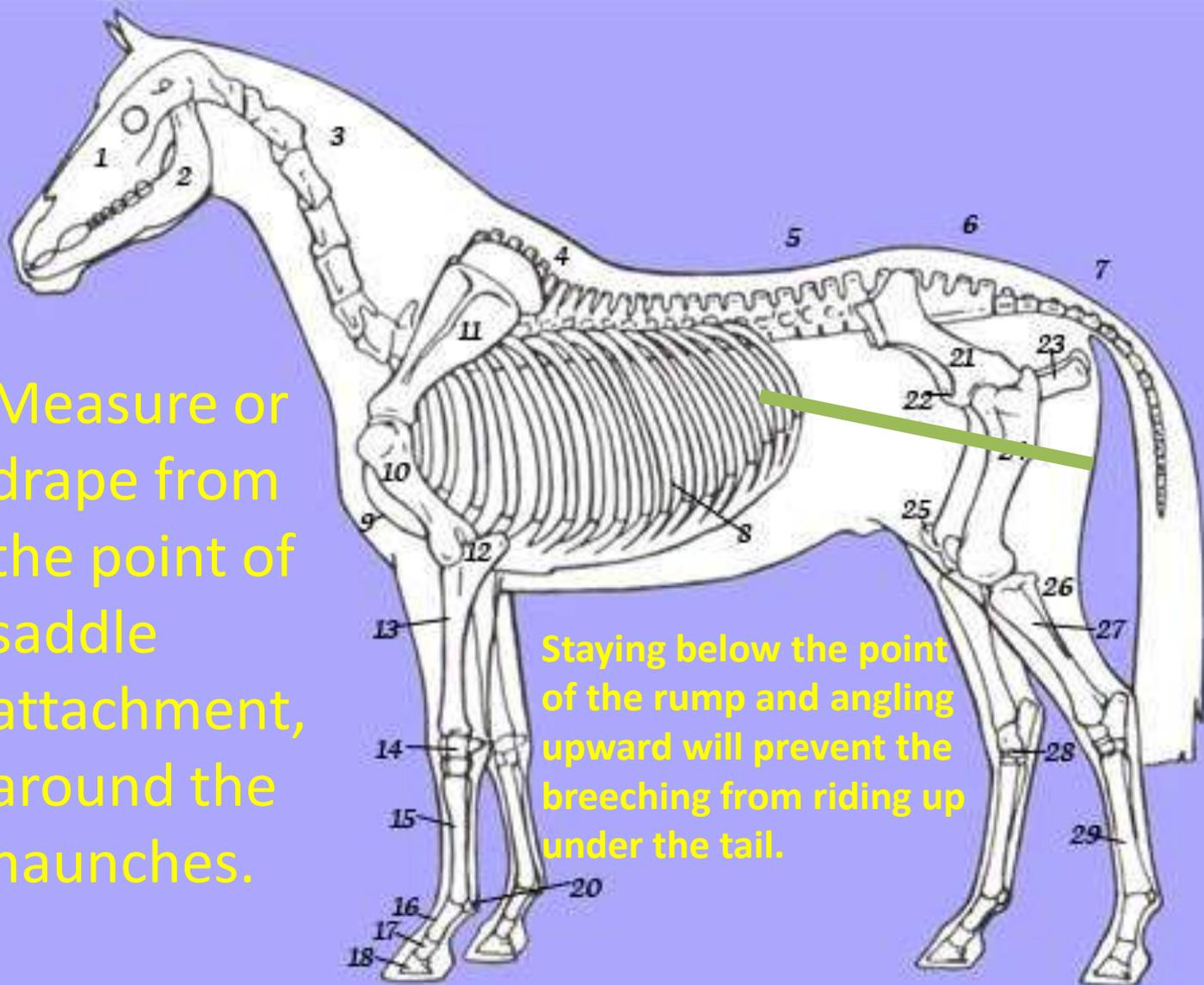


Cross straps
over the
back. Drape
them in
front and
behind the
point of the
hip.



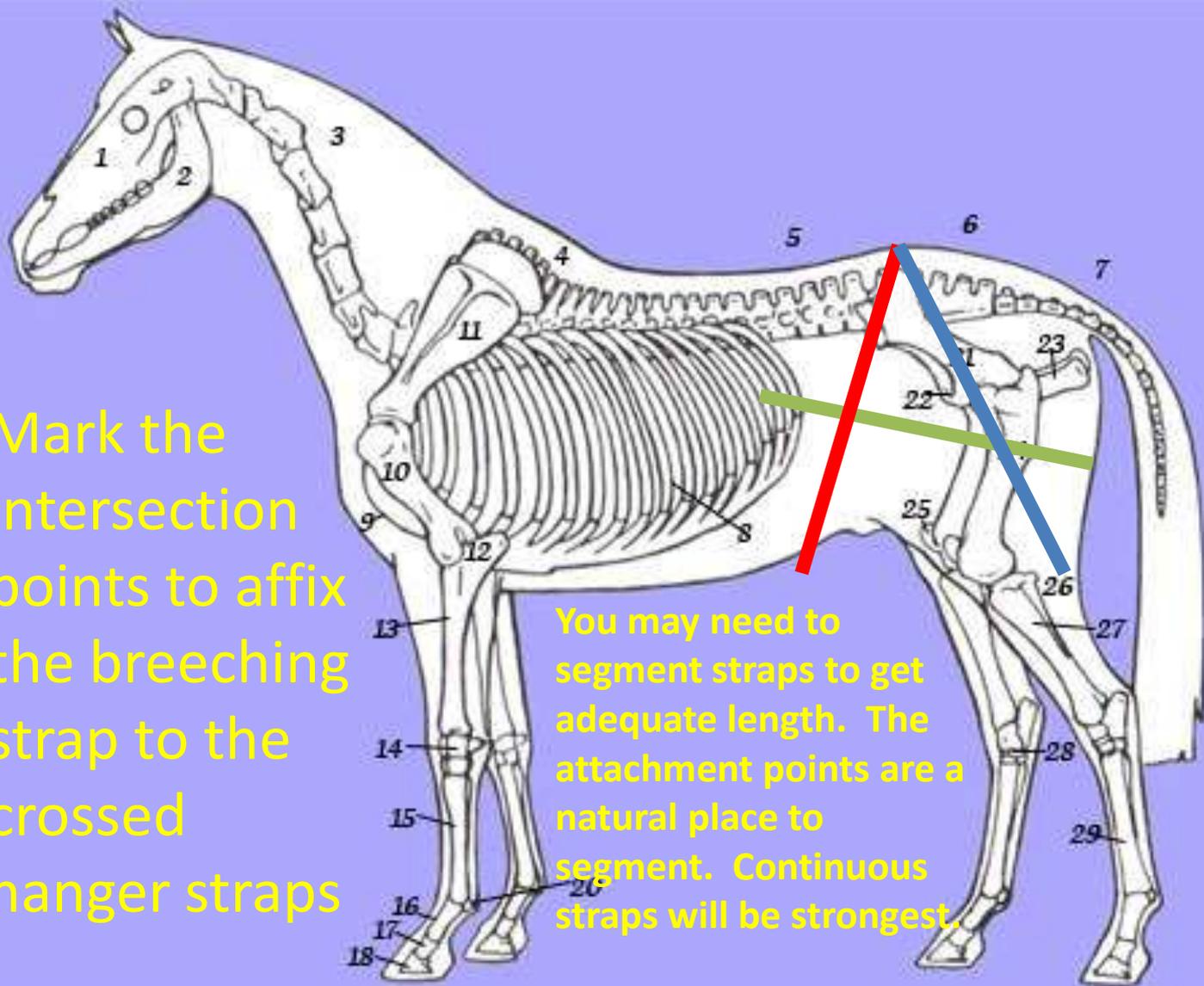
Measure or drape from the point of saddle attachment, around the haunches.

Staying below the point of the rump and angling upward will prevent the breeching from riding up under the tail.



Mark the intersection points to affix the breeching strap to the crossed hanger straps

You may need to segment straps to get adequate length. The attachment points are a natural place to segment. Continuous straps will be strongest.

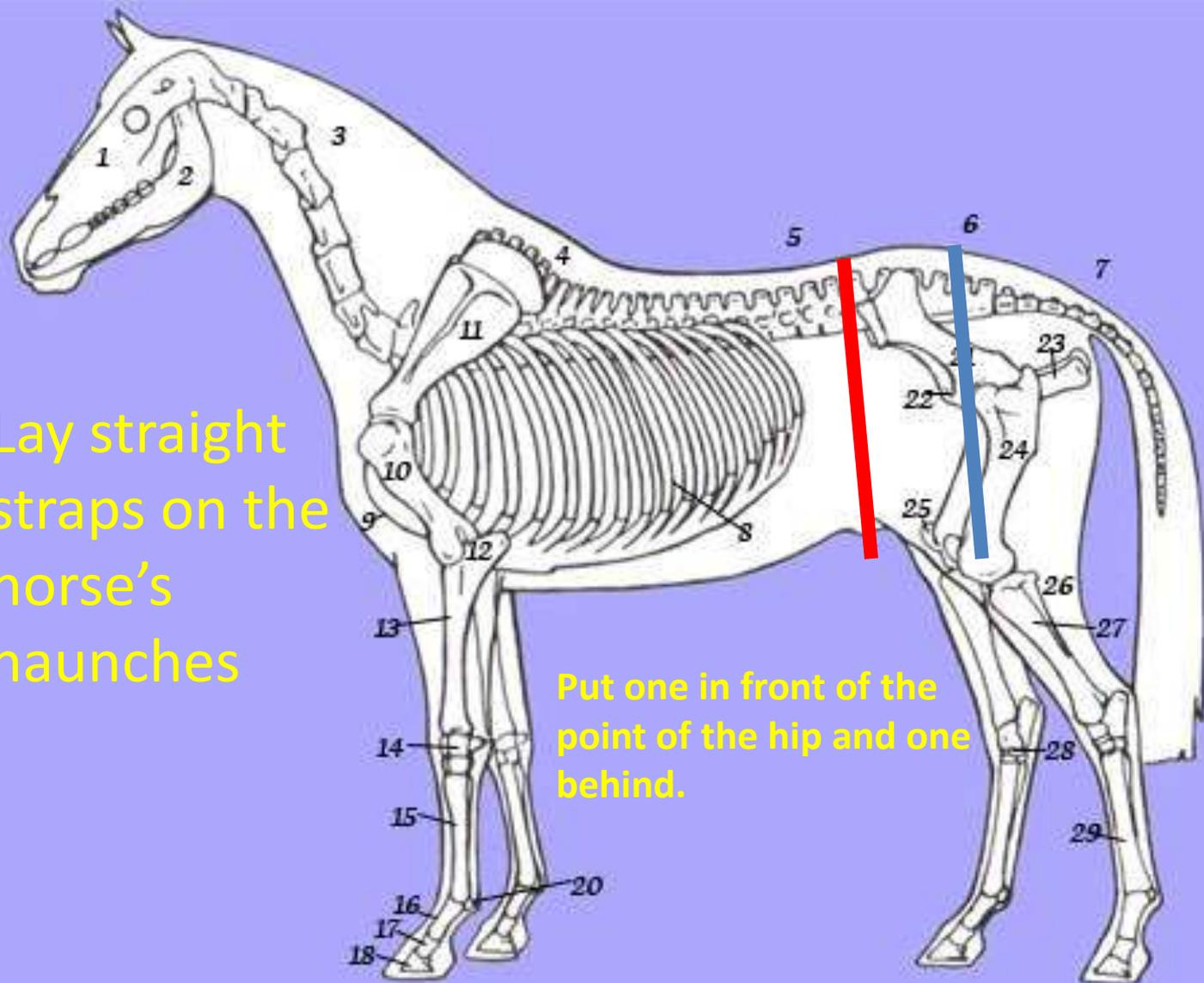


Breeching with straight hanger straps.

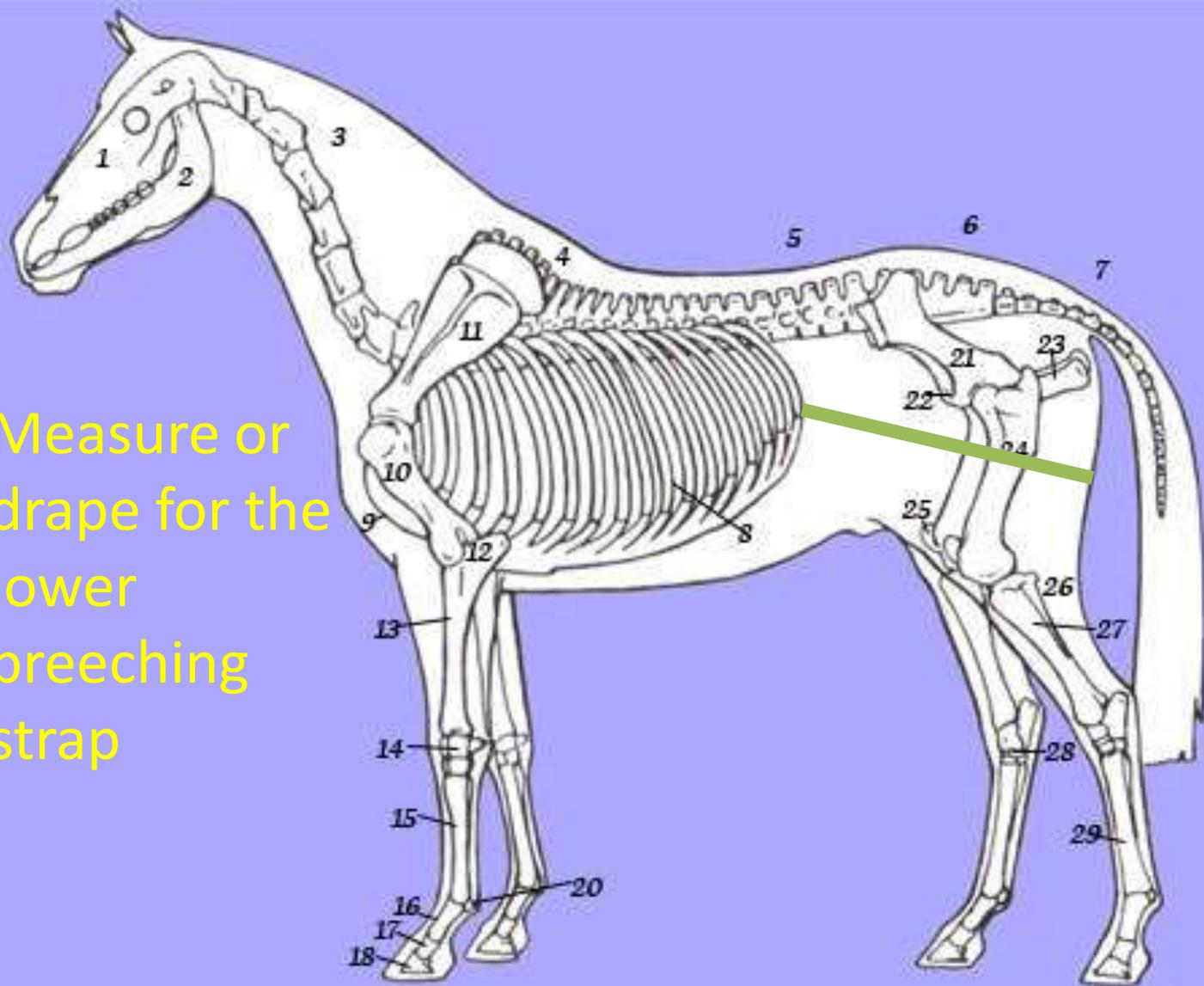


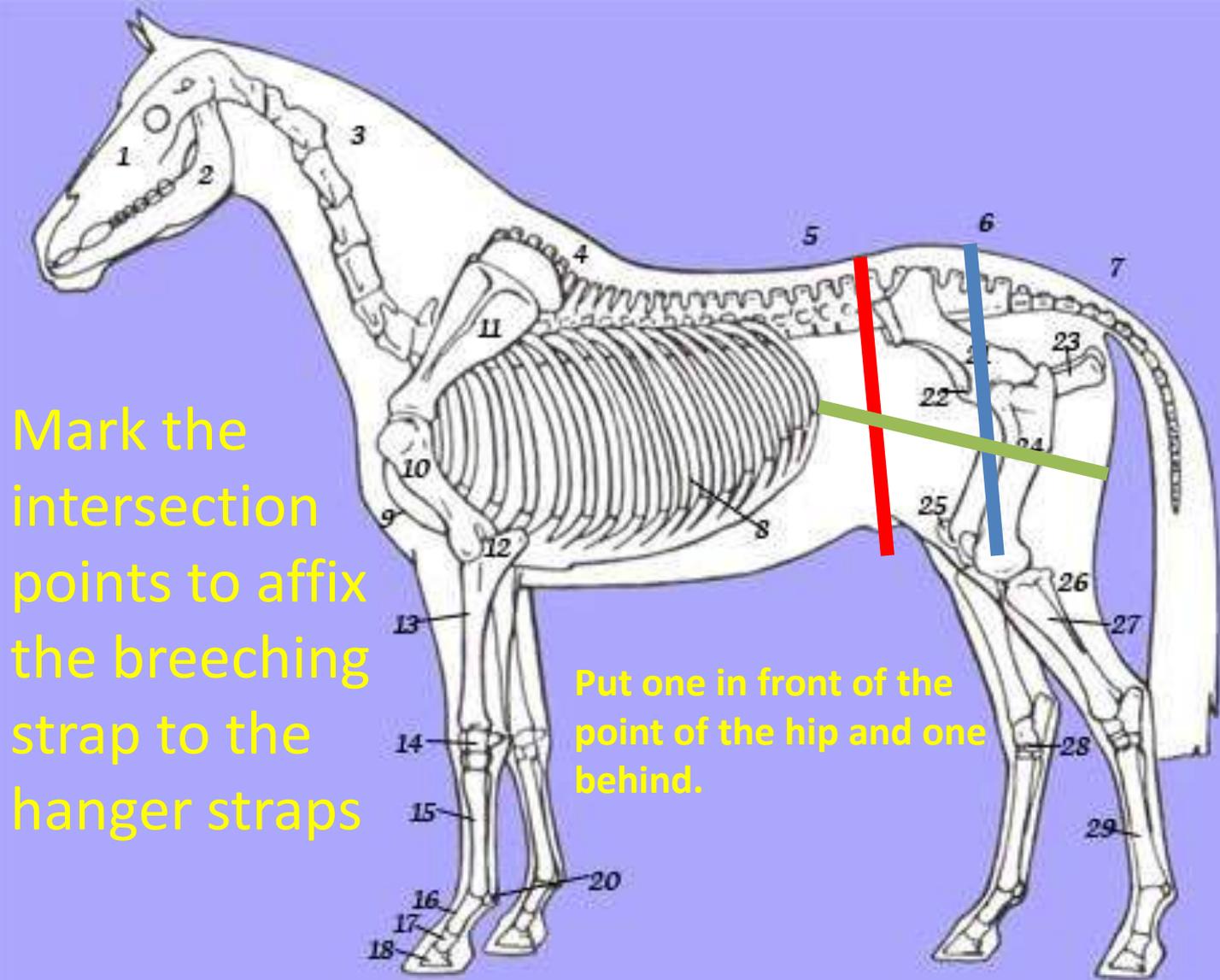
Lay straight straps on the horse's haunches

Put one in front of the point of the hip and one behind.



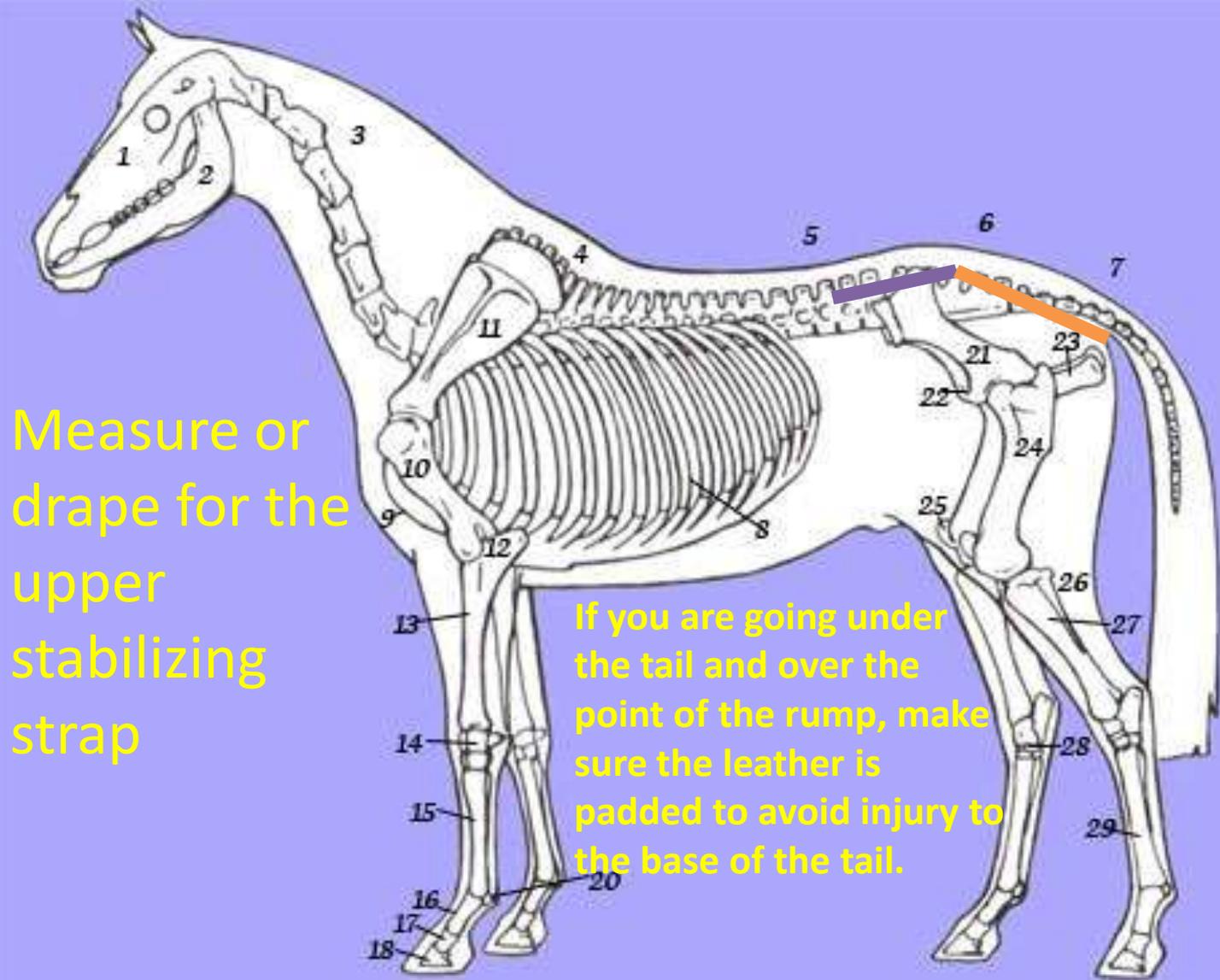
Measure or
drape for the
lower
breaching
strap





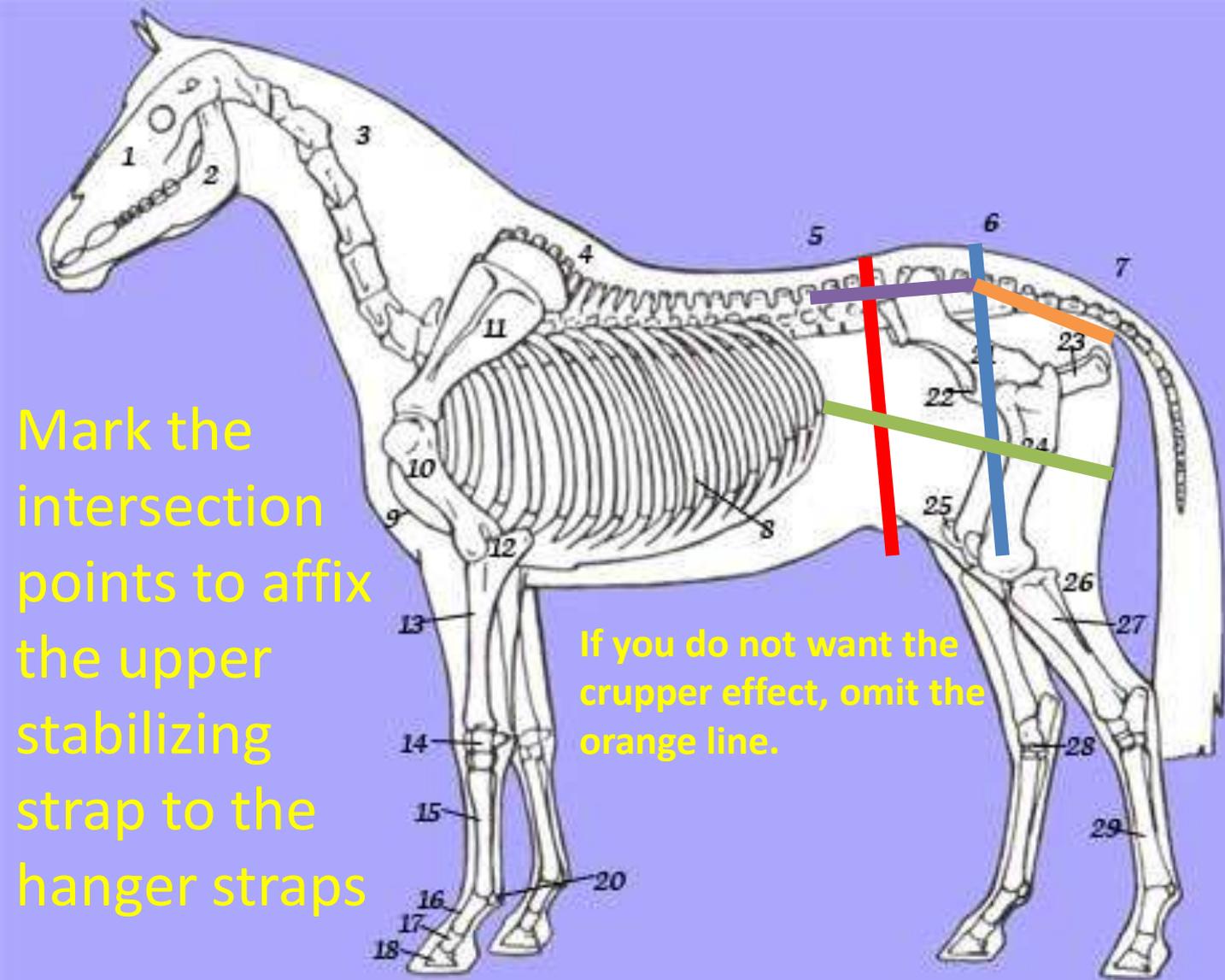
Mark the intersection points to affix the breeching strap to the hanger straps

Put one in front of the point of the hip and one behind.



Measure or
drape for the
upper
stabilizing
strap

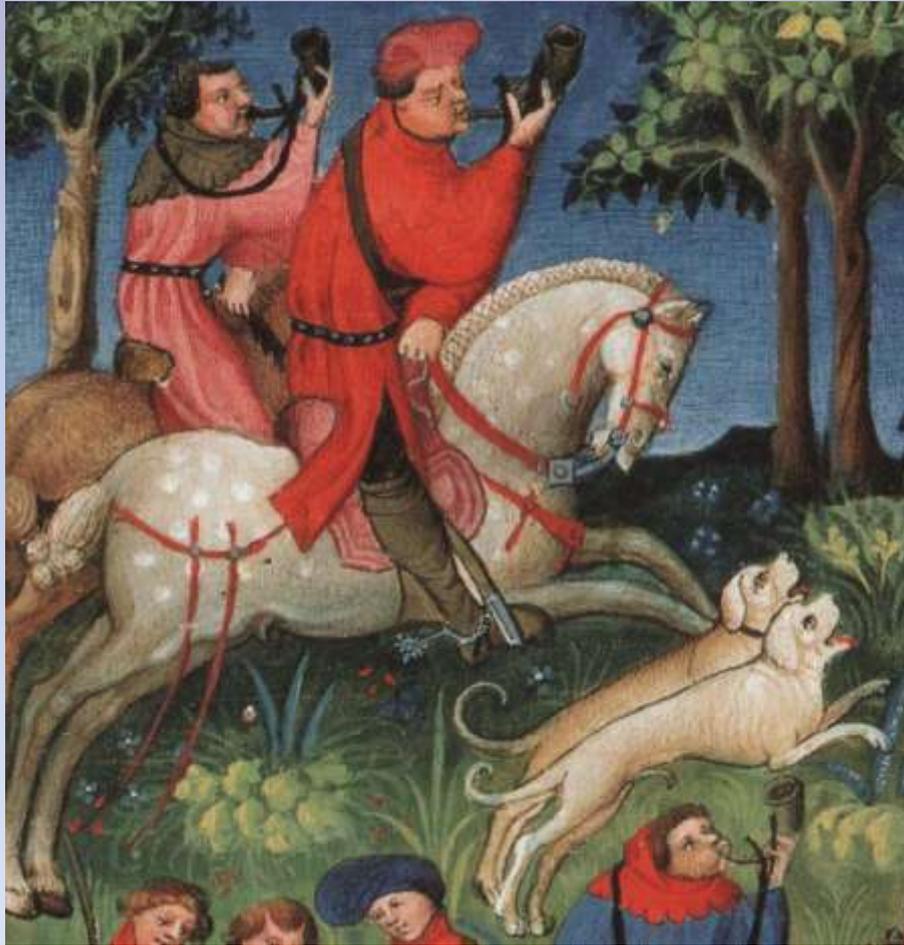
If you are going under
the tail and over the
point of the rump, make
sure the leather is
padded to avoid injury to
the base of the tail.

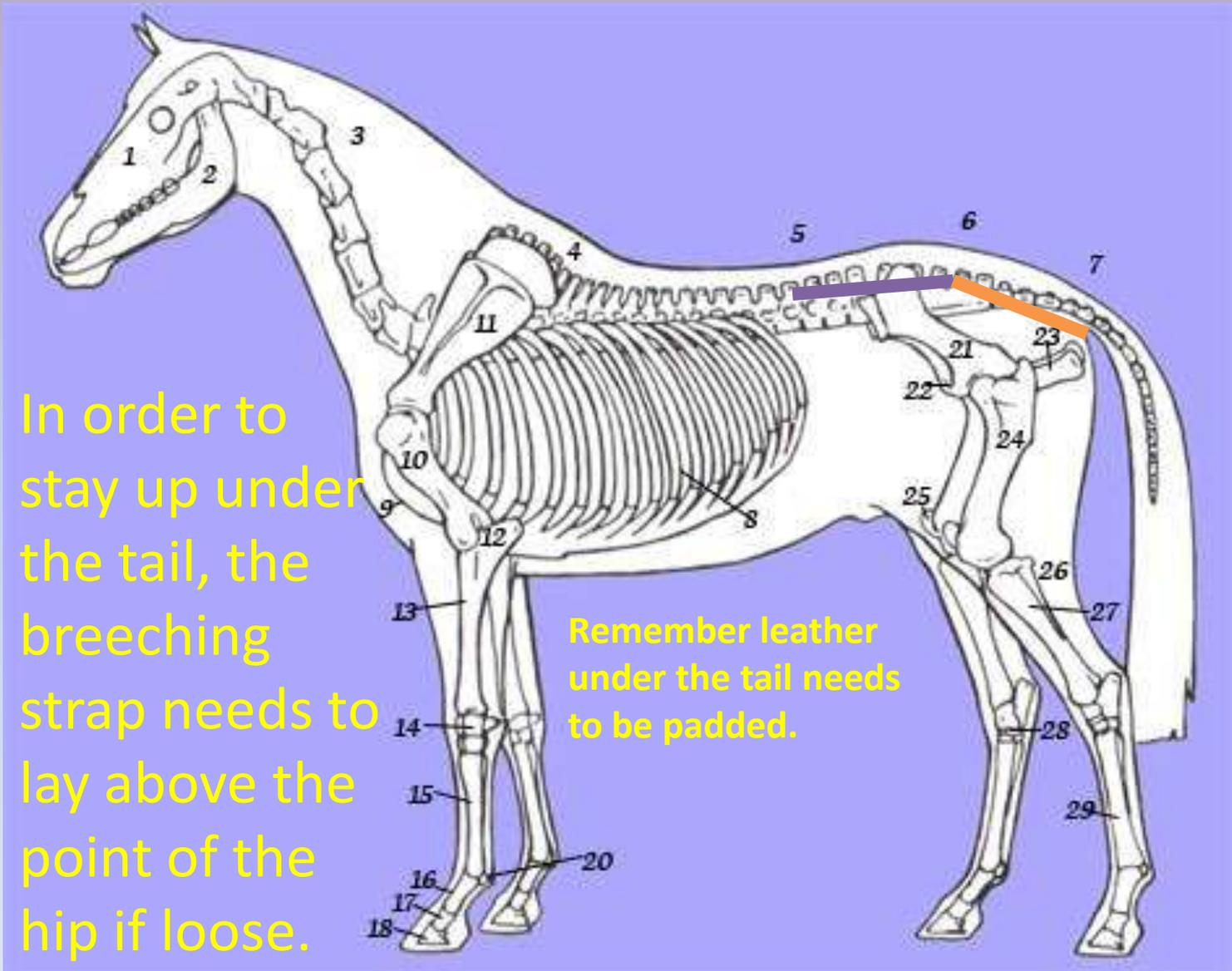


Mark the intersection points to affix the upper stabilizing strap to the hanger straps

If you do not want the crupper effect, omit the orange line.

Breeching with no hanger straps requires special consideration to keep it in place.

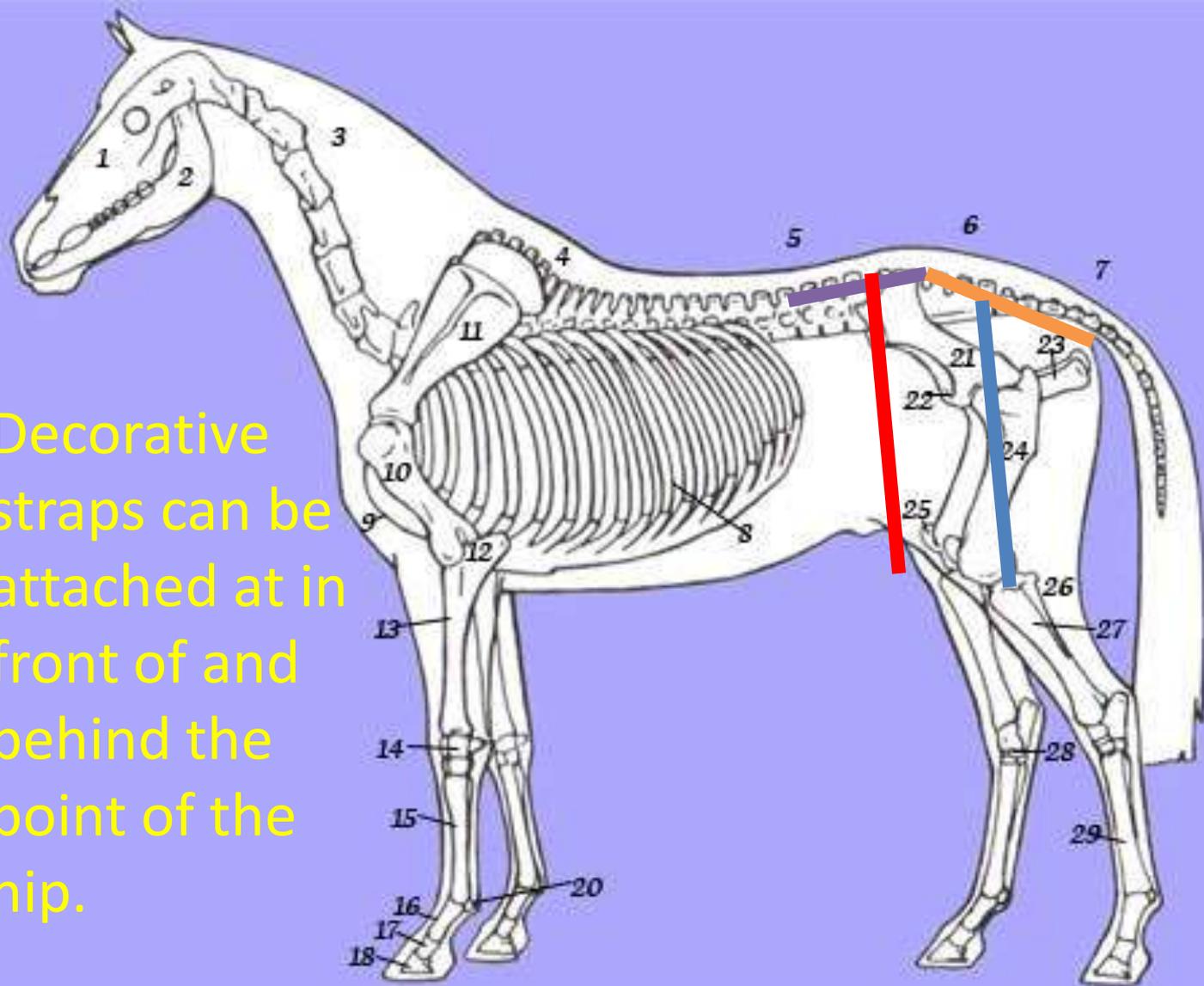


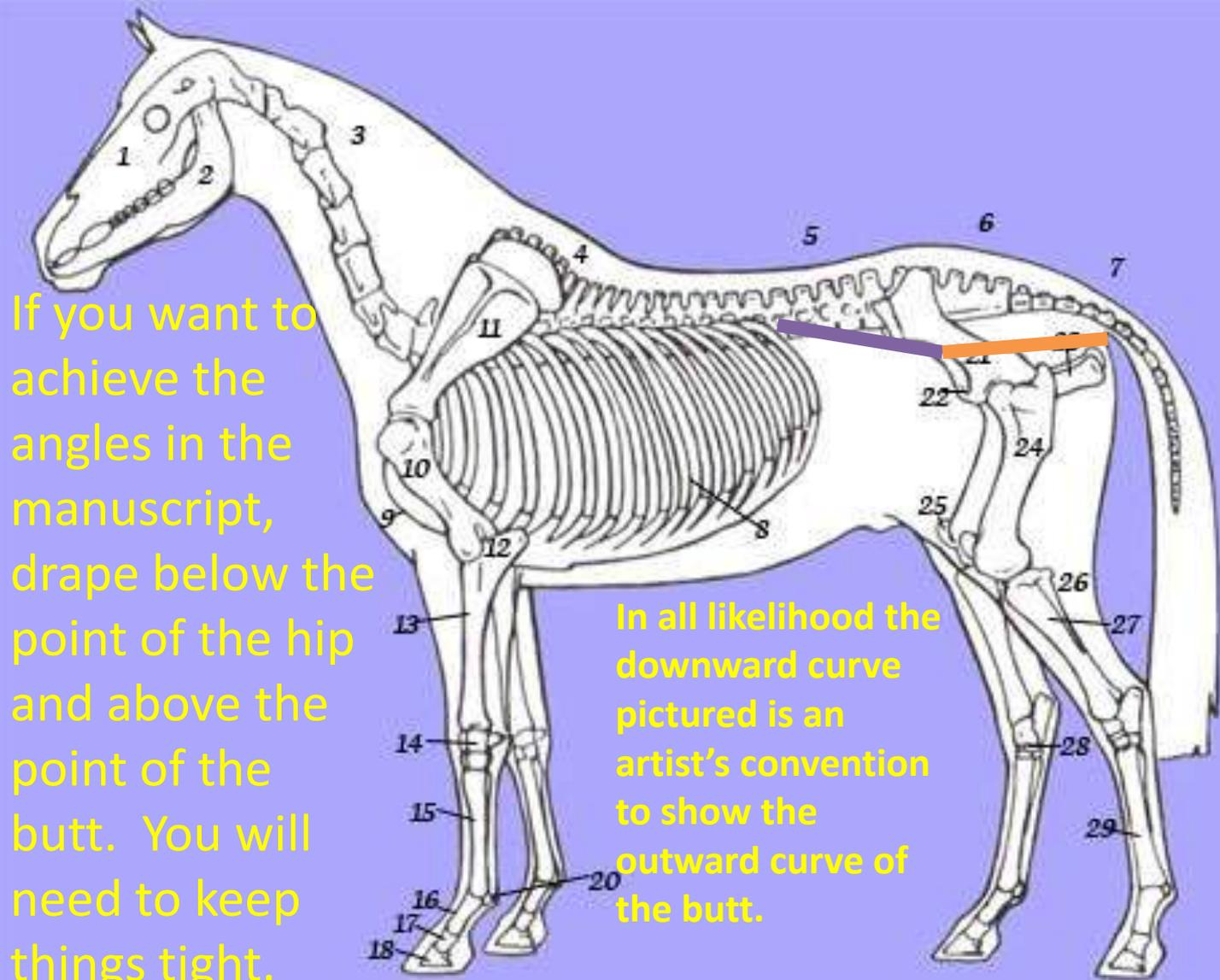


In order to stay up under the tail, the breeching strap needs to lay above the point of the hip if loose.

Remember leather under the tail needs to be padded.

Decorative straps can be attached at in front of and behind the point of the hip.

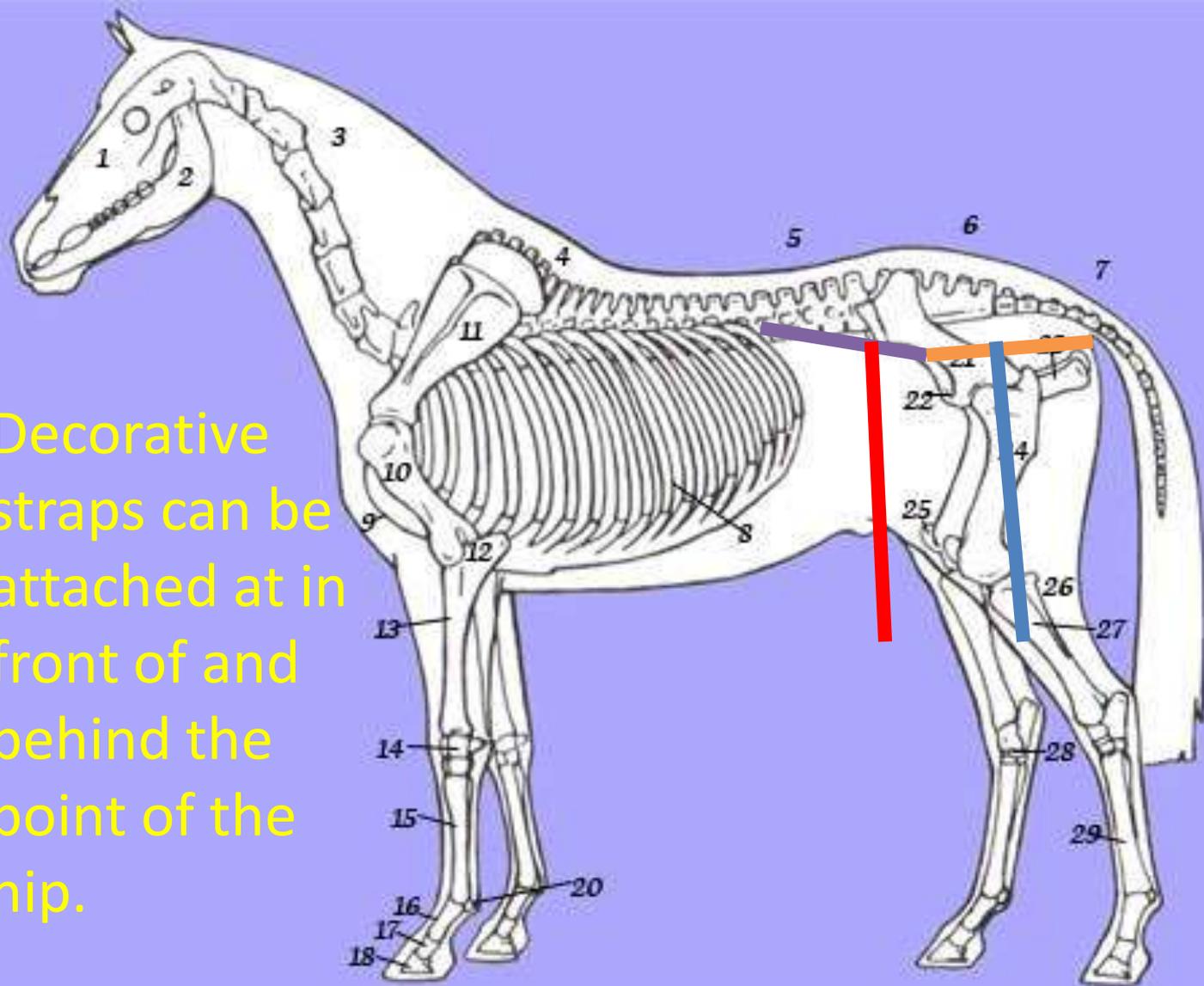




If you want to achieve the angles in the manuscript, drape below the point of the hip and above the point of the butt. You will need to keep things tight.

In all likelihood the downward curve pictured is an artist's convention to show the outward curve of the butt.

Decorative straps can be attached at in front of and behind the point of the hip.

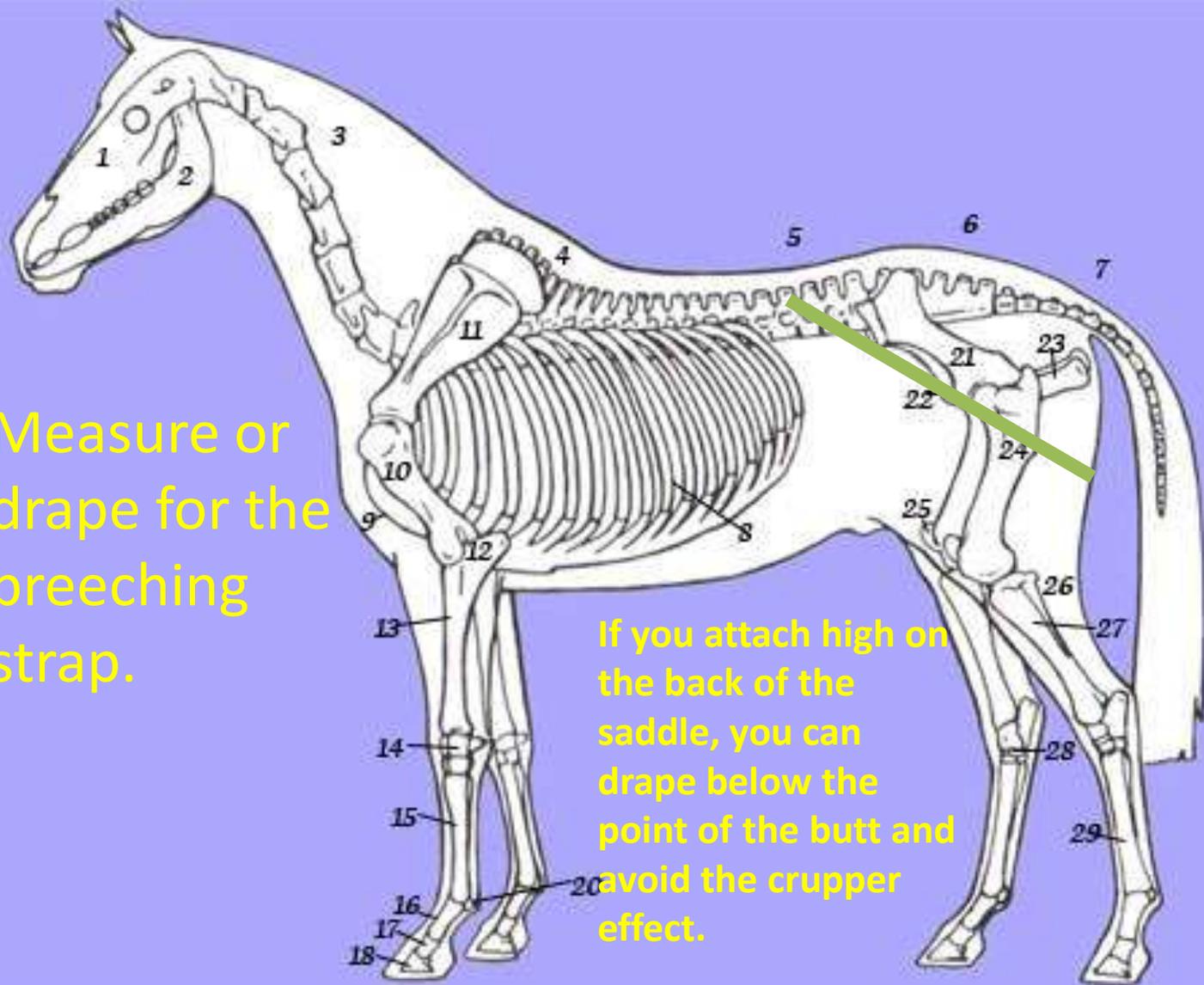


If you want breeching without hanger straps and without a crupper, pay attention to the saddle attachment point.

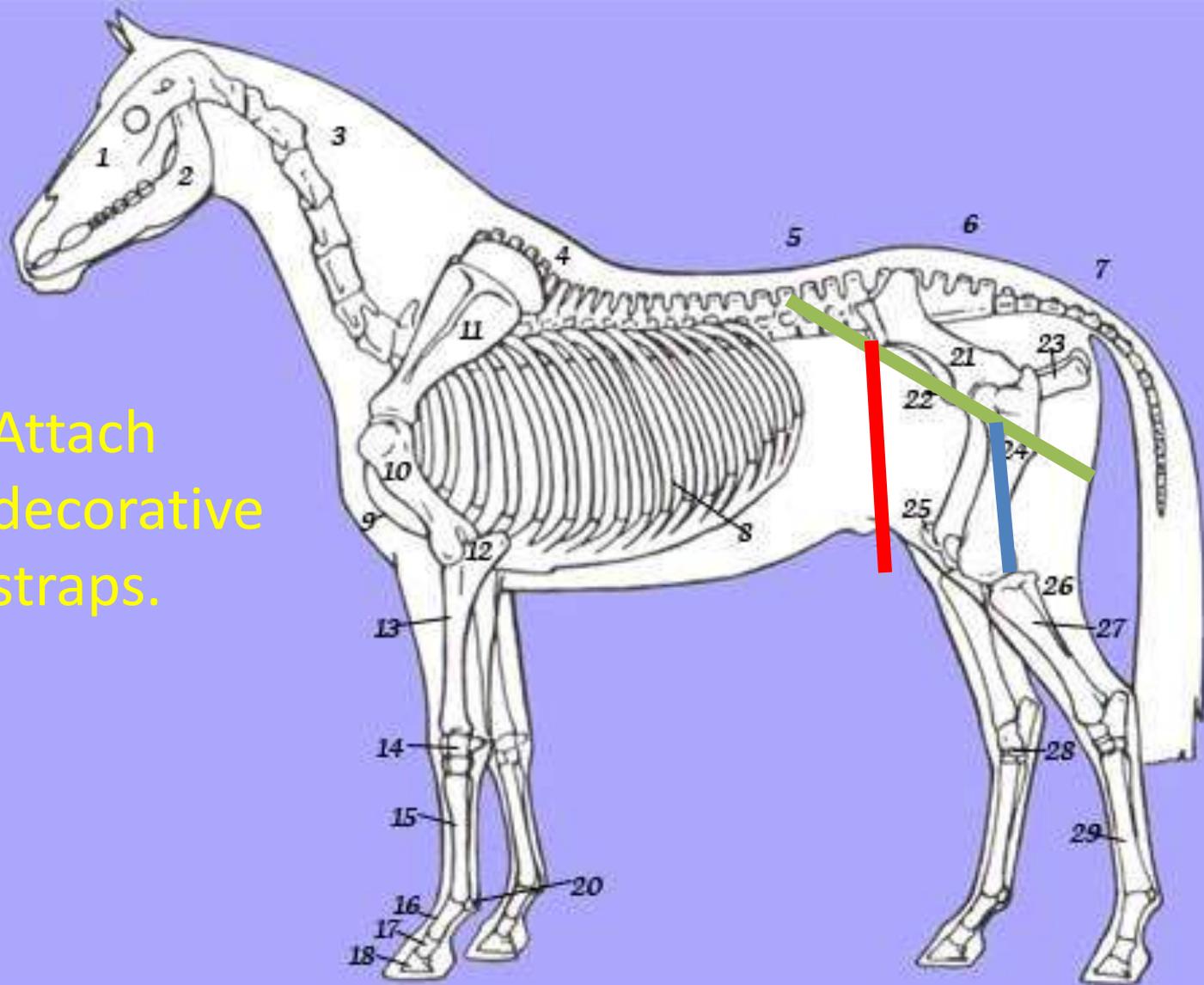


Measure or drape for the breeching strap.

If you attach high on the back of the saddle, you can drape below the point of the butt and avoid the crupper effect.

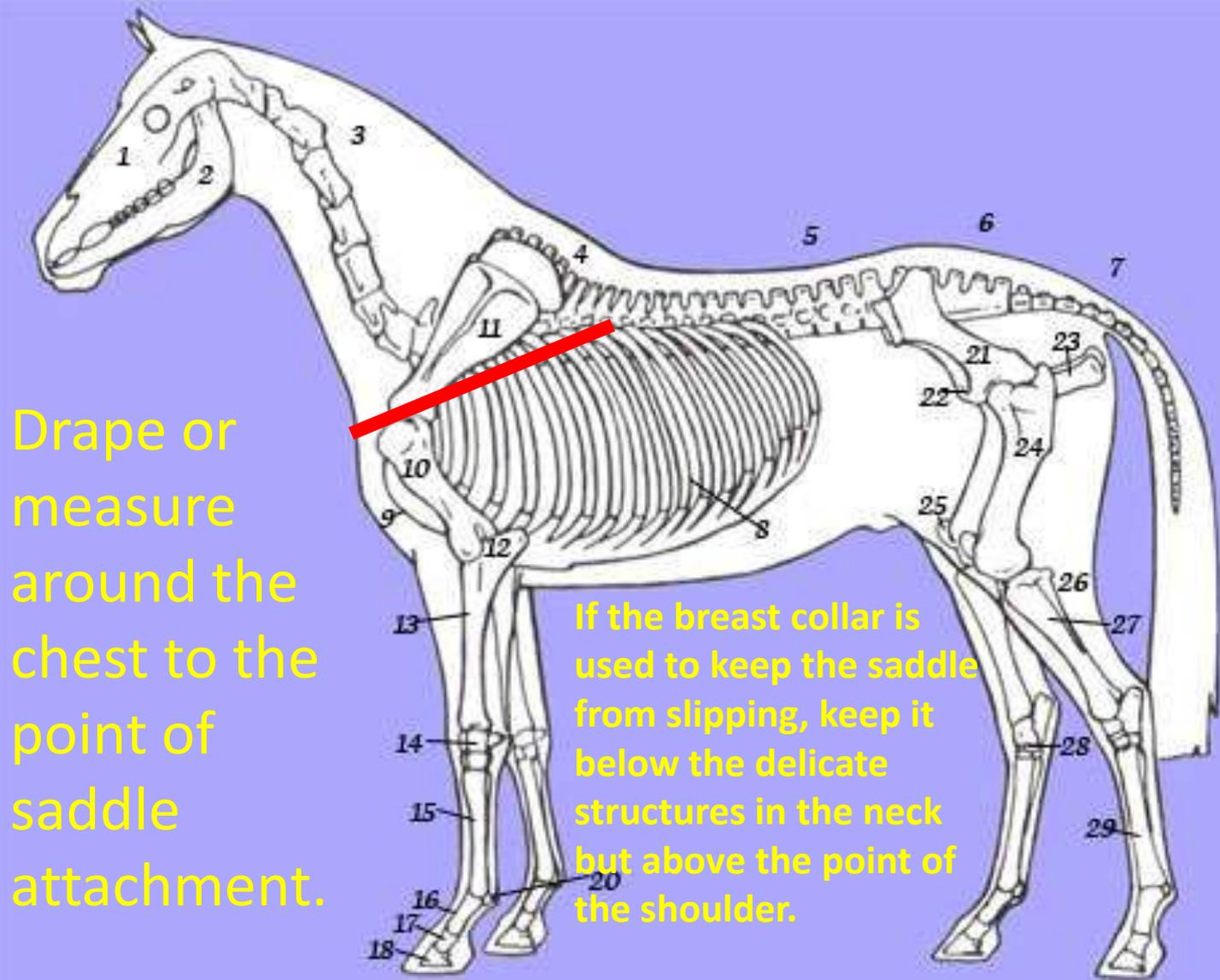


Attach decorative straps.



Single strap breast plate.

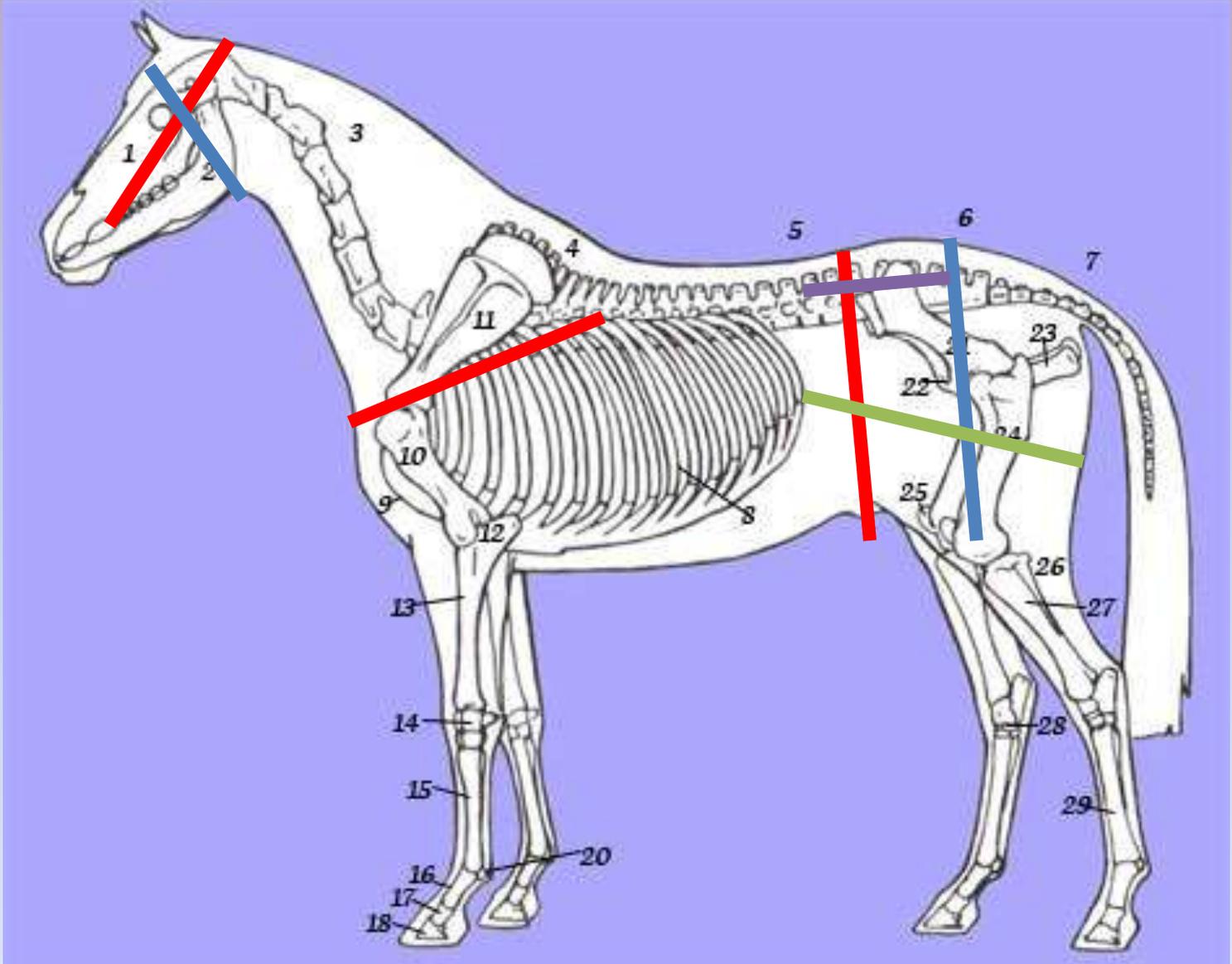




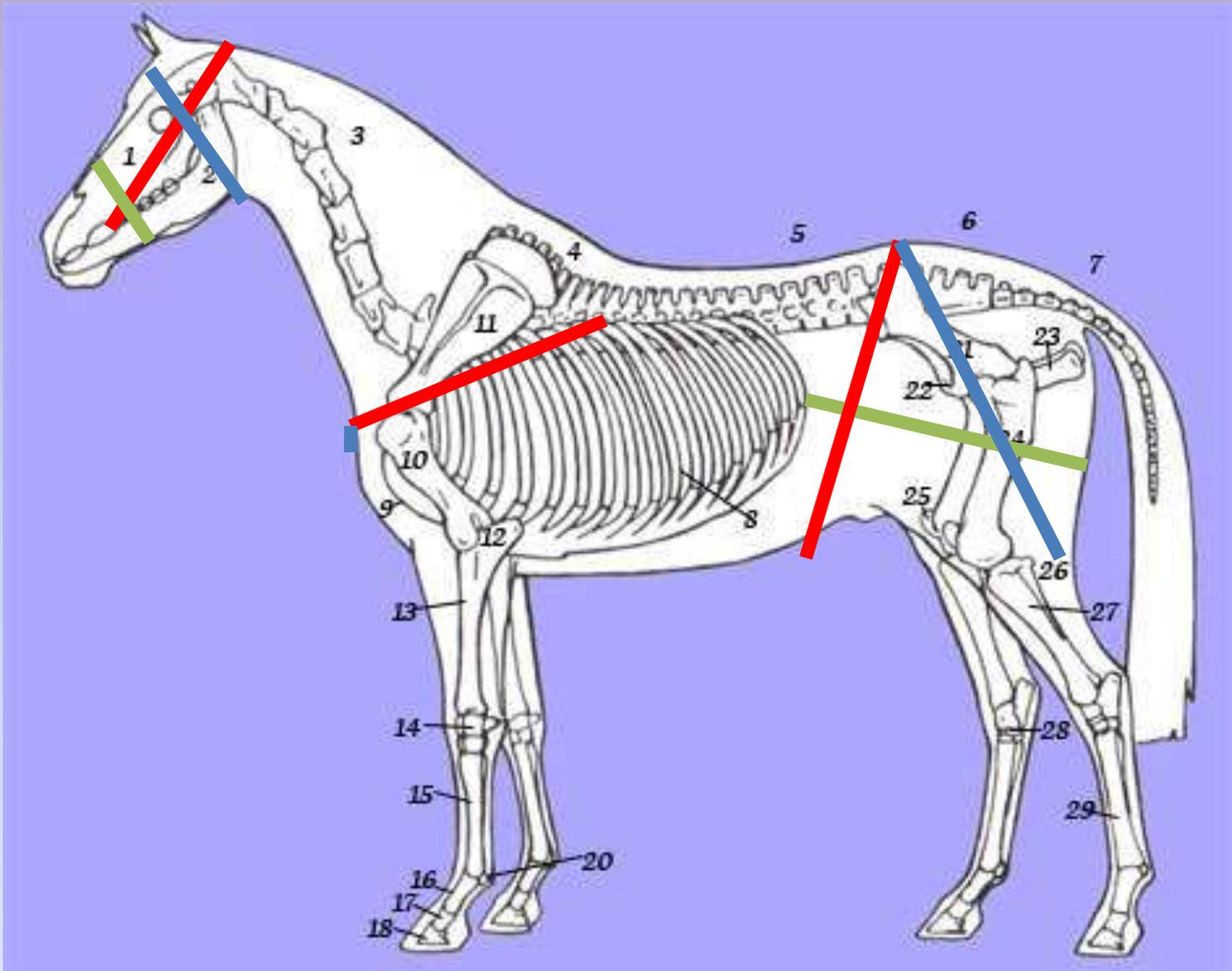
Drape or measure around the chest to the point of saddle attachment.

If the breast collar is used to keep the saddle from slipping, keep it below the delicate structures in the neck but above the point of the shoulder.









Web Resources

<http://ilaria.veltri.tripod.com/bridle.html>

<http://www.historicenterprises.com/journal/07/>

