

12 February 2010

Press Release

Fudge Is Back To Full Health

LEISURE rider, Amanda Walker has owned her beloved horse Fudge for two years, now as an eight-year-old, the dark bay Warmblood mare is gentle giant standing at 17hh.

Fudge enjoys a quieter life in the summer hacking out and then in the winter Amanda takes her for a few days hunting enjoying the trip around the countryside.

The perfect ladies hunter, Fudge is polite and mannerly, with the ability to jump any hedge, gate or ditch that crosses their path.

Usually fit and well with no previous sign of any lameness, Fudge suddenly started to have problems with one of her back legs.

Despite resting Fudge for a month the lameness showed no sign of improvement and Amanda decided she had to take more intensive action to get her back on the road to recovery.

The lameness in her left hind limb continued and the clinical examination graded the lameness as moderate whilst walking in a straight line; and she responded positively to nerve block.

To further investigate a set of X-rays were taken but nothing of any significance was found.

As establishing the cause of the lameness was proving very difficult it was decided to refer Fudge for an MRI scan in the hope the exact problem would be located.

The MRI scan identified a fracture in the third phalanx bone in the hoof, which was complicated by a tear in the collateral ligament.

The mare needed to rest, have clip shoes put on and have a treatment of shock wave therapy to accelerate the healing of the bone.

Whilst the injury was serious, it was difficult to pin point without the use of the MRI scan, which was helpful in revealing much detail about the precise nature of the injury..

After five months Fudge was rescanned. This showed the fracture line was smaller and less apparent than when scanned previously. There were positive signs of healing to the fracture and improved abnormal fluid content in the third phalanx.

After another period of rest, Fudge was gradually reintroduced to work. This was slowly built up and Amanda was delighted when she finally returned to her previous level of activity.

Hallmarq MRI scanners have imaged nearly 10,000 horses worldwide, and are only used at veterinary practices by trained veterinary staff.

For further information contact Hallmarq Veterinary Imaging on (01483) 877812 or visit www.hallmarq.net

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For further information contact Joanna van den Bos at TSM on (01724) 784600.