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high-res photography available upon request

## Hallmarq Standing MRI Unit Joins Alamo Pintado

*World-class equine medical center is first in the United States  
to offer both standing and anesthetized equine MRI.*

June 22, 2011; Los Olivos, CA — Hallmarq Veterinary Equine Imaging is proud to announce their standing MRI system has been selected to expand the extraordinary list of services offered by Alamo Pintado Equine Medical Center, one of the foremost equine medical centers in the world.

Some 4,000 horses come to Alamo Pintado each year, often as many as 30 arrive in just one day. Their owners come seeking treatment for a wide range of issues, from lameness to intestinal surgeries.

Alamo Pintado already offers a comprehensive list of medical diagnostics and therapies, including a traditional high-field MRI that requires full anesthesia. In fact, Alamo Pintado is the first in the United States, and only the second globally, to offer both high-field and standing equine MRI. Carter Judy, DVM DACVS of Alamo Pintado said, “Our guiding mantra here at Alamo Pintado is to offer choice to our clients, which means we must offer a complete array of all the available technology, so that the ‘care team’ of owner and veterinarians can collectively treat the individual horse in the way that best fits his or her problem and situation.” In regards to having two types of MRIs, Dr. Judy explained, “We see the standing and high-field MRIs as complementary, sometimes the high-field is a better choice, but oftentimes the standing MRI is, for a variety of reasons, including rechecks, health screenings for race and performance horses that have no specific lameness, and those with potential anesthesia risks due to age, breed, and overall health. Offering both types of MRIs was simply necessary to provide a truly comprehensive array of diagnostic tools for our clients.”

The Hallmarq MRI is an outpatient procedure, with sedation similar to that used for digital radiographs or other procedure requiring a horse to stand very still. Other MRI systems require full lay-down anesthesia, with its associated risks, but may provide advantages in certain cases such as those where the lameness is in higher joints, such as the stifle.

The ideal standing MRI case is where the problem has been localized to a specific region of the leg, and radiographs have not indicated a clear diagnosis. “The closer to the ground, the less sway in a standing horse’s limb, so hoof images are approaching 100% successful (98.5%), and fetlock images are close to that (96%) with our latest system,” explained Dan Brown, a veterinarian and Business Development Director for Hallmarq. “Regions higher up the leg can be imaged, but the results will be defined by how still the horse stays under sedation. To put another set of numbers to it, we see roughly 30% of radiographs able to give accurate foot diagnoses, whereas our standing MRI system offers triple that success rate at approximately 90%.” Dr. Brown concluded, “Alamo Pintado is a highly respected equine clinic, we are honored to be added to their array of diagnostic tools.”

For more information about Alamo Pintado, please visit [alamopintado.com](http://alamopintado.com), or call (805) 688-6510.

For more information about Hallmarq standing MRIs, including finding the one nearest you, please visit [hallmarq.net](http://hallmarq.net) or call (978) 266-1219.

### **About Hallmarq Veterinary Imaging**

As the sole global manufacturer of MRI systems for the standing sedated equine and with over 20,000 anesthesia-free exams on record, Hallmarq Veterinary Imaging is the pioneer of safer MRI diagnostics. The team behind its development have decades of experience in the design and manufacture of clinical, research and industrial MRI systems for a range of applications globally. From its beginnings over 10 years ago, Hallmarq’s mission has been to make equine MRI safe, accurate and cost effective for horse owners, and affordable and profitable to key equine veterinary clinics worldwide.

### **About Alamo Pintado Equine Medical Center**

Established in 1972, Alamo Pintado Equine Medical Center is one of the foremost equine clinics in the world. It combines state-of-the-art equine hospital facilities and programs such as rehabilitation, teaching and research with an outstanding field practice that cares for many of the horses in the Santa Ynez Valley. The staff has played a pioneering role in the advancement of veterinary medicine, striving to develop and refine many of today’s equine treatment procedures and techniques. Their goal remains to provide the best and most advanced in equine medical technology, diagnosis, treatment and care to patients and to further the depth of veterinary knowledge through research.

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