

PR 117.

DATE

Press Release

Advice On Preparing Horses For An MRI Scan

Question

My horse Albert has been lame on his near fore leg for some weeks now. My local veterinary practice has referred him for a Hallmarq MRI scan. I know a little about this procedure, but I would like to know more about how to prepare him for the scan and what to expect so that I don't make him nervous myself, can you help?

Answer - Hallmarq Standing Equine MRI Scanner

Hallmarq MRI Standing Equine scanners have helped over 10,000 horses worldwide gain diagnosis for lameness. The procedure is not only rapid compared to convention methods, but extremely accurate.

Once your horse has been referred for an MRI scan, you need to contact your insurance company. Most insurance companies will cover part or the full cost of the scan. Remember to do this well in advance, so you know exactly what financial position you are in.

When going for the scan, remember to take with you details of your insurance policy and Albert's passport.

Sedating Albert is necessary to ensure he remains still throughout the scan, if he has had any problems with sedation in the past, please inform the veterinary centre prior to your appointment.

The Hallmarq MRI scanner produces a strong magnetic field, where short pulses of radio waves are applied to the limb, resulting in a weak radio echo which is used to create images of the horse's leg. Due to the magnetic field, the shoes on the leg to be scanned and the adjacent leg must be removed to avoid any interference with the image. The other shoes can remain on. The vet will remove the necessary shoes on arrival.

Generally a horse admitted for a Hallmarq MRI scan will spend a day at the veterinary centre, although the scan only takes an hour or so, this will allow time for the horse to get settled and recover from being sedated.

The owner will be contacted after the scan, to be informed how everything went and arrange a suitable time for collection.

The data received from the scan is large and complicated, so to ensure that nothing is missed and it is accurately interpreted, it is usual within 72 hours after the scan. The referring vet is then told the results from the scan.

The referring vet will then advise what the best care and treatment should be for Albert.

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

ENDS

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