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Press Release

Why Is Your Horse Lamé?

If your horse goes lame a mixture of concern and fear suddenly hits you. The unknown can be very unnerving, especially as lameness is notorious for being hard to detect. If only horses could talk.

The latest MRI scanners for horses now enable the worry of the unknown to be explained. MRI technology has the ability to reveal details of soft internal structures beyond the scope of x-ray and ultrasound. This has revolutionised the way veterinarians can reach an accurate diagnosis.

The Hallmarq scanner allows a detailed and carefully targeted investigation into the horse's limbs to be performed, without having to use a general anaesthetic. The horse will be sedated for the entire procedure, which last about an hour, and they remain standing so that minimum stress is caused.

The images produced are able to show damage in soft tissue such as tendons, ligaments and the navicular bursa that is undetectable by ultrasound and radiograph. MRI also makes contusions and partial fractures visible. Detecting injury early reduces the risk of potentially devastating results.

In the case of acute penetrating injuries MRI can establish whether critical structures are involved, and may identify the need for urgent surgery, again minimising the likelihood of a serious outcome.

If your horse is lame for no obvious reason, MRI can help arrive at an accurate diagnosis, and precise and effective treatment to prevent prolonged damage or unnecessary rest periods.

Currently there are 11 Hallmarq scanners situated around the UK at specialist centres to which your own vet can refer your horse.

For more information on MRI or to find the nearest practice with a scanner visit www.hallmarq.net.

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