Equine Ultrasound

Procedure information:

Ultrasound evaluation of the horse can be an effective tool to diagnose many soft tissue/bone abnormalities. Certain ultrasound procedures are extremely challenging to perform and accurate diagnostic information from such exams can be very useful to formulate an effective treatment plan. Experience, training, and equipment are essential in obtaining diagnostic ultrasound studies. Our equine radiologists, Dr. Dana Neelis, DACVR and Dr. Beth Biscoe, DACVR both obtained extensive training in ultrasound prior to their respective radiology residencies. Dr. Neelis performed an equine ultrasound and cardiology fellowship with Dr. Virginia Reef at the University of Pennsylvania, New Bolton Center. Dr. Biscoe completed 2-year fellowship training with Dr. Mary Beth Whitcomb at the University of California, Davis in large animal ultrasound. Additional knowledge and experience in all imaging modalities was then achieved during their respective residency training programs.

Our equine radiologists utilize state-of-the-art MyLab Gold ultrasound units with Doppler capability for all exams. All ultrasound images are transferred to our server after each exam, which can then be easily delivered to the referring veterinarian and/or owner for future reference. It is our goal at Animal Imaging to make diagnostic imaging an extension of your practice; we would be happy to assist with obtaining and/or interpreting ultrasound studies in your equine patients.

Indications for ultrasound:

- Suspected pelvic or coxofemoral joint abnormalities (fracture, luxation, arthritis, effusion)
  - Both transcutaneous and transrectal ultrasound exams of the pelvis can be performed
- Ultrasound guided injections (diagnostic or therapeutic) of the cervical, thoracic and/or lumbar facet joints
- Ultrasound guided injections (diagnostic or therapeutic) of other specific joints such as coxofemoral joints, shoulders, and elbows, or for guided injection of biologics (i.e. stem cells, PRP) into soft tissue lesions
- Lameness localized to a specific region or joint
  - Possible areas examined could include the stifle, tarsus, carpus, fetlock, metacarpal/metatarsal soft tissues (including the proximal suspensory region), pastern, or digital sheath
• Monitoring progression of certain soft tissue lesions to evaluate treatment success
• Ultrasound evaluation of abnormalities previously diagnosed via MRI
• Echocardiography for suspected cardiac disease
  o Cardiac disease is a potential cause of poor performance in athletic horses. Horses are at risk of suffering from either congenital or acquired cardiac conditions. Symptoms could include: heart murmur, exercise intolerance, distended vasculature, swelling of the distal limbs, weakness, or collapse.

Scheduling an appointment:

To provide the best diagnosis possible, a completed ultrasound referral form is required from the referring veterinarian, including any pertinent history related to the exam. This form is available on our website at www.animalimaging.net. Ultrasound evaluations are scheduled as outpatient procedures and may require 1 to 2 hours to complete. Horses are administered light sedation and are typically ready to travel soon after the exam. Reports generated by our equine radiologists will be forwarded to the referring veterinarian and the owner within 24-48 hours of the exam.

Please visit our website at www.animalimaging.net or call (972) 869-2180 if you have any further questions.