

Procedure Information:

CT, or computed tomography, is a computer processed combination of x-ray images taken from different angles to produce cross-sectional images of a specific area; in this case the equine skull. These images are highly detailed 1-3 mm slices throughout the area of interest. Animal Imaging is one of very few clinics in the world that have the ability to perform a CT scan of an equine skull in a standing patient. Our facility has uniquely adapted equipment that allows us to utilize standing sedation to acquire the images, avoiding general anesthesia. CT is an invaluable diagnostic tool which can often reveal important information which allows our radiologists to solve diagnostic dilemmas.

Common indications for an equine head CT:

- Trauma/fracture evaluation and pre-surgical planning
- Nasal mass or chronic nasal drainage
- Chronic dental issues, tooth extraction planning
- Temporomandibular joint pathology
- Temporohyoid osteoarthropathy
- Guttural pouch pathology
- Head shaking
- Sepsis or osseous abnormalities in foals

Scheduling an Appointment:

To provide the best diagnosis possible, a completed CT 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. CT appointments are made on an outpatient basis. Clients will bring the horse to our facility, an exam will be performed, and an IV catheter will be placed prior to the procedure. The horse will then be administered multiple doses of sedation and CT images will be acquired. After reviewing the initial scan, our equine radiologists will determine if IV contrast should be administered, which can help delineate a specific region or soft tissue structure.

Clients will be asked to sign a release form regarding the administration of contrast. The horse will be ready to travel home as soon as it has recovered from the sedation. One of our equine radiologists will review all the images and will submit a final report within 24-48 hours. A typical exam includes over 2,000 images of the area of interest. Dr. Dana Neelis, DACVR and Dr. Beth Biscoe, DACVR have extensive training in evaluating CT studies. The report and clinical findings will then be sent to the referring veterinarian and client. A surgical consult on the CT findings can be provided if necessary, upon request.

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

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