



Wensum Valley Veterinary Surgeons EQUINE Newsletter

DECEMBER 2019

X-RAY use in our equine practice.....



We have a state of the art digital X-Ray system. It operates wirelessly with images obtained on the receiver unit within a couple of seconds. The image quality is superb. Only to be expected with an investment of £50000 !

Primarily we use X-Ray imaging to look at bone issues. We can visualise fractures, dental disease, arthritis as well as some soft tissue problems such as fluid in the sinuses in the skull.

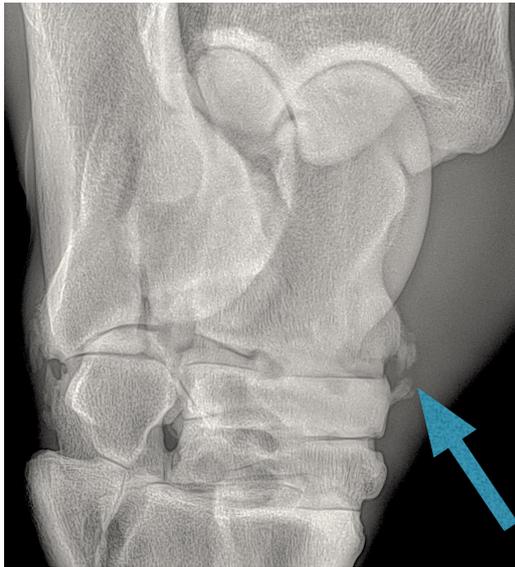
Sometimes it is obvious where to point the machine. For example, where we have a lame horse with a swollen, painful fetlock we can head straight there. Not uncommonly we have a lame horse without an obvious site of pain. In these cases we need to use nerve and joint blocks to ensure we are imaging the correct area. Taking X-Rays without this information becomes a “hit and hope” approach and runs a real risk of finding an abnormality, assuming its the cause of the problem but missing the actual issue.



We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year



Some examples.....



The image on the left shows a hock with osteoarthritis (new bone around a joint) highlighted with a blue arrow. The image on the right shows a normal knee. Arthritis in the hock ("Spavin") is a relatively common finding in older horses.



We take lots of pictures of horses' teeth. In this example the incisors are shown. This horse had a relatively rare condition called Equine Odontoclastic Tooth Resorption and Hypercementosis which causes the tooth roots to swell. The teeth may need removing over time.

We more commonly take pictures of the large cheek teeth and sinuses. This is very helpful in looking at tooth roots, fractures and secondary sinusitis (infection / fluid in the sinuses). This is especially useful when we are considering tooth removal.



This is 2 views of a hind fetlock. We generally take at least 4 views of any joint so that we see it from various angles. This horse had a fracture (arrow) of the long pastern bone which luckily did not involve the joint. You can see how the shape of the fragment looks different as we change the position of the X-Ray machine.



contact the practice on 01328 864444

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