

Fact Sheet

Radiography (x-ray)



What is radiography?

Radiography is an imaging modality which is an essential tool in any equine veterinary practice for looking at the bones and joints of your horse.

A radiograph is obtained by placing an area of the horse in front of an x-ray detector (an x-ray plate) and then firing a short pulse of x-rays through the horse and onto the plate.

Radiography is most commonly used in lameness investigations to look at the bones and joints of the leg but is also invaluable in the evaluation of the skull, dental disease, lungs, neck and back.

Radiation safety

Radiation safety is an important consideration for personnel working with x-ray equipment.

Lead gowns, gloves, thyroid protectors and radiation badges are worn to protect against radiation exposure and monitor levels of exposure.

If owners need to assist with the procedure they are:

- Over 18 years of age
- Not pregnant
- Supplied and wearing PPE (lead apron and gloves)



Mobile radiography

The quality of mobile radiology is now such that we can produce perfect images at your stables, without need to transport your horse to a hospital.

At the yard, mobile radiography offers pre-purchase radiography through to emergency imaging of the severely lame horse, bringing the latest technology to your stable and getting the correct treatment to your horse straight away.

Vets frequently work with farriers by taking x-rays for foot balance and remedial farriery.

All you will need is an area of flat and a clean floor, under cover and a reliable power source.

Images are available to be viewed instantly at your premises and are stored electronically for easy access in the future.

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Benefits of radiography

- Can be mobile or used in a clinic
- Radiography also acts as an aid to improve the accuracy, and therefore safety, of injections in to deeper structures of the skeleton e.g. medication of the navicular bursa
- Non-invasive
- Painless



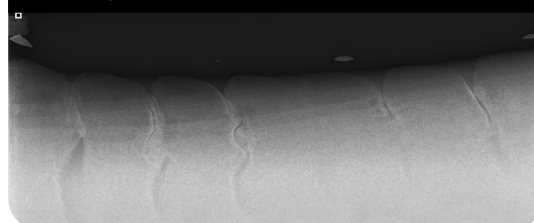
Pre-purchase radiography

It is normal practice for insurance companies to request pre-purchase radiographs when the horse being vetted is worth over a certain value.

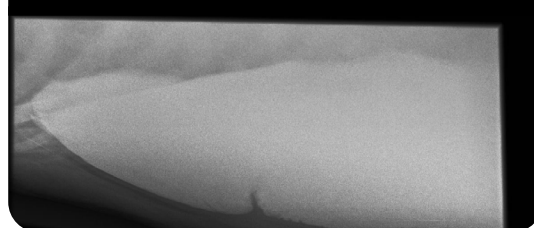
There are also situations where you may be worried about a specific joint in a horse you are having vetted, or the vet may pick up on something during the pre-purchase examination that could affect the horse's future performance - as such they may recommend for radiographs to be taken.

Alternatively, radiographs may be requested by the purchaser. This is often seen in sports horses, where horses are competing at a higher level and the demands on the physical ability of the equine is much greater.

Kissing spine



Sand in the abdomen



Fractured tooth



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This factsheet was created by the VetPartners Equine Team, with assistance from our Marketing Team and Veterinary Regulatory Advisors.

For further information, please contact your local VetPartners Equine Veterinary Practice on:

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Together with our practices, our focus is on providing an excellent service to our equine clients.

No two practices are the same, and we understand and embrace that independent spirit.