



Information sheet for horses admitted for Scintigraphy at Ascot Equine Veterinarians

- Horses should be admitted to Ascot Equine Veterinarians the day before the scan is to be undertaken.
- All horses will undergo a full clinical examination prior to undertaking the scan.
- To improve the quality of the images obtained, where possible, the horse should remain in work for two weeks leading up to the scan.
- Shoes do not routinely have to be removed prior to the scan unless a BAR shoe is in place and the feet require scanning.
- Please bring with the horse rugs that they would normally wear. Feed is provided for the hospital admission.
- A small patch of hair on the neck over the jugular vein will be clipped to allow catheter placement for isotope, diuretic and sedative administration.
- Radioactive isotope will be administered to the horse via the IV catheter between 9am and 9.30am. The horse will be scanned 2-3 hours following. Once injected the horse becomes “radioactive” and will be confined to a *radiation controlled* area for 24 hours, and owners will not be permitted to visit during this time.
- For safety reasons the horse will not be mucked out whilst the stable remains a *Controlled Area*. This is due to radiation being passed in the urine and faeces. As such handling of the horse is kept to a minimum – however the horse will be checked regularly and provided with fresh food and water.
- The scan is performed under sedation, not general anaesthesia; depending on the regions to be examined, the scan can take up to 2.5 hours. Given the radiation safety concerns, owners are not permitted to be present during the scan.
- Although images are assessed on site, all images are sent for independent interpretation by experienced equine diagnostic imagers, ensuring all clients of Ascot Equine Veterinarians receive high quality service.
- Once the scan is complete, the horse returns to the *Controlled Area/stable* for the radioactive isotope to decay. 24 hours following administration of the radioactive isotope the horse may be discharged if it does not require further workup (nerve blocks, radiographs, or ultrasound examination). However, horses should have little human contact for a further 24 hours to allow for complete radioactive decay before further workup by referring vets or return to normal husbandry by owners.
- Ascot Equine Vets endeavor to inform owners and referring veterinarians of scintigraphy results within 36 hours of the scan being performed.
- The strict procedures in place are to minimize the exposure of staff to radiation and are a legal requirement. The single dose of radiation that the horse is exposed to during the procedure poses no known risk to its health.