

## RADIOGRAPHY

### Client Information Sheet



#### What is Radiography?

Radiography is an imaging technique which is an essential tool in equine veterinary practice for looking at the bones and joints of horses. At Avonvale we have a number of fully portable battery powered Xray systems to enable us to obtain highly detailed images of the region of interest at your yard without the need for an external power source.

Radiographic images are obtained by placing an Xray plate behind the area of interest and then firing a short burst of Xrays through the horse and onto the plate to give an image of the bony area of interest. Radiography is most commonly used in lameness investigations and pre-purchase examinations to look at the bones and joints of the limbs but it can also be used in other areas for example to evaluate the neck and back, the skull and sinuses, tooth roots and lungs.

We can offer mobile radiography at your yard as part of a lameness work up, alongside your farrier to assess foot balance and help them with remedial farriery, as part of a pre-purchase examination or in emergency assessment of a severe lameness. The only requirements are a clean, flat area that is under cover and is quiet and away from other people. Digital images are obtained immediately and can then be reviewed in more detail at the practice if necessary and are stored electronically for easy access in the future.

#### Radiation Safety

All our veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses are trained in radiation safety.

We may require owners to hold their horse for radiographic examination. In order to hold a horse for Xrays, you must be over 18 years of age and not pregnant.

You will be given personal protective equipment (PPE) comprising a lead gown and if appropriate lead gloves. The veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse undertaking the procedure (radiographer) will also be wearing appropriate PPE.

The radiographer will ensure that the area chosen for radiography is suitable, enabling high quality images to be acquired and ensuring that other people are not going to stray into the controlled area where radiography is taking place risking inadvertent exposure to radiation. If you are assisting in the procedure by holding your horse, they will instruct you where to stand to ensure you are as far as possible from the Xray beam. Our aim when taking a set of Xrays is to obtain the required images of the highest possible quality to enable diagnosis to be made using the minimum number of exposures. It may well be necessary to sedate your horse in order to reduce the risk that they move during the procedure which would mean that further exposures are required to obtain good quality images.



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#### More Information:

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