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A Tradition of Leadership and Excellence in Equine Medicine

**Sports Medicine Center
Craig T. Roberts, D.V.M.**

April 2001

It has been one year since the grand opening of the Sports Medicine Center. Thank you to all who have helped support and promote our center! This past year has seen numerous hard to find lameness and performance problems diagnosed and in many cases effectively treated. We have been excited to follow along our success stories and be exposed to many of the great athletes we have the good fortune to work with in our practice.

For those of you not familiar with our center, the center's goal is to provide the Ocala area with the latest in diagnostic procedures relating to subtle performance problems which prevent numerous athletes from reaching their athletic potential. Examination under speed on the treadmill can be combined with a number of other procedures to help identify and then confirm diagnoses, which may lead to improving performance in any given athlete. Problems that are often encountered include upper airway abnormalities, lower airway disease, cardiac abnormalities, subtle lameness, conditioning intolerances, and muscular abnormalities.

The nuclear imaging section of the Sports Medicine Center is designed to allow in-depth evaluation of subtle lameness or difficult lameness that have not been identified by other traditional methods. This sensitive tool images the horse's metabolism, effectively allowing the horse to identify the location(s) of concern causing lameness. This tool is especially useful at identifying upper limb sources of lameness such as pelvic fractures, elbow and shoulder inflammation and upper limb stress fractures, which may not be visible on radiographs. The scan is also effective at identifying ligament and tendon injuries from bone conditions. In certain situations this imaging tool may also be used to identify sources of inflammation in difficult medical cases.

The Sports Medicine Center offers high tech diagnostics for every performance horse. Diagnostic evaluations are tapered to the individual horse's area of concern and performance needs for their sport. Thanks again for a tremendous first year! We do not intend to rest here, however. Our goals are to constantly improve the center to meet your demands.

This year we intend to focus in on improving our services and education to the client. On Saturday, June 2, 2001, we will host the first annual Sports Medicine Client

Continuing Education Conference. Speakers will include members of Peterson and Smith Hospital staff along with Dr. Kent Allen and Dr. Keith Merritt. We are pleased and excited to spend the day with you in an effort to make you, the client, as informed as possible about the latest treatments and diagnostics that are at your disposal.

Topics to be covered will be numerous and range from drug selection for joint therapy and how they work to the latest on shock wave therapy. We look forward to spending the day answering your questions and presenting information both in formal lectures as well as demonstration forums at the most advanced level. This year's conference examples will be primarily eared towards the performance horse involved in 3-day, hunter, and jumper activity. However, all horse owners and trainers will benefit greatly from this course's general information regardless of your current knowledge base. Hope to see you there! For more information about the conference, please contact me directly.