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A Tradition of Leadership and Excellence in Equine Medicine

COMING SOON TO PETERSON & SMITH EQUINE HOSPITAL Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

We are excited to announce that we will soon be able to provide Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) at Peterson & Smith. MRI has become the gold standard in human medicine for the definitive diagnosis of many conditions, and is rapidly becoming just as important in veterinary medicine.

The value of the information gained from an MRI is a result of the quality of the magnet used and of the expertise of the person reading the images. The quality of an MRI image is directly related to the strength of the magnet that produces the image. We will be utilizing the services of MREquine™, who have a magnet that is the strongest magnet available for use in horses. The images will be read by Dr. Robert Schneider, who is a board certified surgeon and is the pioneer in the field of equine MRI. He has interpreted as many MRI studies in horses as anyone in the world, and has trained many of the veterinarians evaluating MRI images in this country today. The reports will be available 24 hours after the imaging is performed.

In horses, MRI has been extremely useful in diagnosing lameness issues in particular areas on the horse. In many cases, it is superior to radiographs and ultrasound because it offers more of a 3D view of both bone and soft tissue structures and shows early minor changes that are too subtle to be detected by other modalities. Unfortunately, its capabilities are limited to the feet and lower limbs, however, this includes the majority of areas affected by lameness. In the foot, for example, we have limited access with an ultrasound machine to evaluate the myriad of soft tissue structures present there, and radiographic changes must reach a certain degree of severity before they are detectable. In high suspensory disease, the diagnosis is usually made by exclusion because the lesion must be fairly severe before we can see it on an ultrasound. Current MRI research being done suggests that there are some early changes in fetlocks that can be seen before condylar fractures actually occur. With an MRI, we can more accurately make the diagnosis, formulate a treatment plan and, just as importantly, offer a more accurate prognosis. Overall, it provides an excellent tool for us to be able to prolong the athletic life of an individual.

Here at Peterson & Smith, it is important to us to bring the highest quality service to our clients in everything that we offer, and we are confident that this MRI meets our standard for care. We invite you to call any of our board certified surgeons: Donnie Slone, Tim Lynch, or Faith Hughes with any questions or to schedule an appointment.