

## WHAT HAPPENS IN AN MRI SCAN?

### 10 steps involved in examination with Standing Equine MRI

You may be familiar with the tubular MRI machines from human hospitals, but Hallmarq's Standing Equine MRI is slightly different. Instead of a superconducting magnet, it uses a permanent magnet which is in a C-shape, allowing the horse's foot to be placed in the middle. The whole process is completely harmless to the horse and you should be able to drop him off and pick him up on the same day.

1. Your vet refers the horse to the clinic after performing an initial clinical examination and deciding MRI would help to diagnose his lameness
2. If you are insured, contact your insurance company to obtain prior approval for the scan
3. The clinic contacts you to arrange an appointment and answer any questions you have
4. You can either have your farrier remove the shoes before the appointment or the clinic can do it once your horse arrives. If a front foot is being scanned then both front shoes will need to be removed, and vice versa
5. The clinic will take radiographs of the feet to be scanned to make sure there is no metal in the hooves that can disrupt the images
6. The horse is sedated and walked into the MRI room. The horse handler will position his feet in the magnet and fit a coil appropriate to the target region. The horse will be stood squarely and given a head support so he can relax
7. The scan takes 1-2 hours and sedation will be topped up to keep the horse still
8. After the scan, the horse is taken out of the scan room and allowed a little while to recover from the sedative before going home.
9. Your vet will ring you in a few days with the results
10. Your horse receives treatment targeted to his known injuries

