

## **Patient Preparation for the MRI Procedure:**

- MRI examinations require that the horse shoes and nails be carefully removed from the front or hind feet depending on the area being examined.
- It is preferable for the patient's farrier to remove the shoes prior to arrival at the Equine Medical Center.
- Horses should arrive at the EMC by 8:15 am on the date of the scheduled examination, and check in with admissions at the EMC. Dr. Johns will be in admissions at the EMC when you arrive.
- Next, the patient will be brought into the main patient treatment room for preparation for the MRI series.
- The feet will be thoroughly cleaned with soap and water, and if there are any questions about having retained metal from nails in the feet, a radiograph will be taken of each foot.
- Halters will be removed and replaced with the non-metallic MRI halter.
- Dr. Susan Johns will sedate the horse prior to entering the MRI room, and the patient will be sedated as necessary throughout the procedure.
- The procedure usually takes 2-3 1/2 hours depending on how cooperative the patient is in the magnet.
- Following the completion of the MRI series, the patients will be removed from the MRI room and taken outside until they are safely able to load onto a trailer.
- The images will be stored on a CD, and Dr. Johns will return to Virginia Equine Imaging in order to install the images on our clinic's Dicom reader.
- The images will be read by Dr. Kent Allen at VEI following the procedure.
- The patient will either return to VEI for additional diagnostics and workup or the information will be forwarded to the referring veterinarian.
- Please note: Access to the MRI must be strictly controlled because of potential adverse effects of visitors on the magnet and the magnetic field on visitors. Therefore, handlers of the horse during the acquisition of MR images must sign a consent form prior to entering the magnet room.