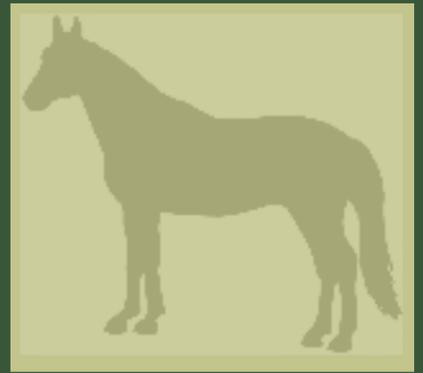


Diagnosing Equine Lameness

An infographic brought to you by Tryon Equine Hospital

Examine at Rest

While the owner gives the history, our vets examine your horse from a distance. They take note of body type, condition, conformation, and look for any shifting of weight/unusual stances. They then take a closer look to see if they notice any abnormal wear/cracks of the hoof, lacerations, swellings in joints, tendons or muscles.



Examine in Motion

Then, they watch your horse walk, trot and lunge on hard and soft ground. We often watch the horse go under saddle since many performance issues only show up under saddle. This helps them define which leg is involved and the severity of the lameness. They will then palpate and perform flexion tests followed by a jog, which can help accentuate the lameness.



Localize

Once our vets have a better idea of where the lameness is coming from, diagnostic anesthesia aka nerve and joint blocks help to localize the lameness. A nerve block desensitizes everything below that area of the leg. While, a joint block desensitizes everything within that specific joint, this leads to significant improvements in soundness when the source of the lameness is located.



Diagnostics

With the lameness localized, your vet may want to take a closer look at the bones and soft tissues involved. Digital radiology allows us to analyze the bones and joints with a high level of clarity and digital ultrasound allows us to instantly look at potential tendon and ligament injuries. If the radiographs and ultrasound images are inconclusive, other diagnostic modalities may be explored; MRI, bone scan, etc.



Rehabilitation & Treatment

Once we've pinpointed the lameness, your vet will discuss rehabilitation and treatment options to get you and your horse back to doing what you love. These treatment and rehabilitation options may include; stall rest, Aquatread, joint injections, stem cell, PRP, trot sets, shockwave therapy, acupuncture, chiropractic, IRAP, Tildren, and TheraPlate. You can learn more about these treatment options on our website at www.tryonequine.com

