

Lameness Investigations

South Moor Equine Vets are able to diagnose and treat obvious causes of lameness such as foot abscesses and tendon injuries as well as perform thorough investigations and treatments where necessary.

What a lameness work up may include:

- Taking a thorough history
- Testing for pain in the hoof
- Careful examination of your horses conformation
- Palpation of your horses limbs and back
- Active lameness assessment at walk, trot on different surfaces, lunging, and flexion tests or even being ridden
- Relevant diagnostic imaging including x-ray or ultrasound
- Nerve or Joint blocks (injections)
- Referral for specialist diagnostic imaging such as an MRI scan or scintigraphy

If it is unclear what the cause of lameness is, one or a series of nerve blocks may be performed:

- A small volume of local anaesthetic is injected, over specific nerves in the leg to numb the feeling to a specific area.
- If your horse/pony is sound after this nerve block then we know that the cause of lameness is coming from somewhere within the 'blocked' region.
- If your horse/pony remains lame then we will perform the next nerve block up the leg, as we would usually start at the bottom of the leg and work our way up.

What happens after a lameness work-up?

We would always discuss the outcome of a lameness work-up with you before undergoing any treatment. The type of treatment is very dependent on the diagnosis but may include:

- Medication of a structure with an anti-inflammatory drug
 - E.g. placing steroid into a joint
- Rest +/- controlled exercise
- Changes to the way your horse is shod.
- Systemic treatment with an anti-inflammatory (e.g. 'bute')
- Surgery to treat specific conditions and/or to provide us with more diagnostic information



South Moor Equine



01548 830210

 South Moor Equine Vets

www.southmoorequine.co.uk