

STANDING CT SCANS FOR HORSES

What is a Computed Tomography (CT) scan?

Computed Tomography (CT) is the method of choice for the evaluation of the equine head. RVC Equine's CT facilities have been specially modified so that this procedure can be performed on conscious, standing horses. This then eliminates the need for, and the risks associated with, general anaesthesia.

Preparation for a standing CT scan

On arrival at RVC Equine your horse will be unloaded by one of our technicians and weighed (this is to enable accurate calculation of the drug doses for sedation during the scan). The clinician dealing with your horse will discuss the history of your horse's problem with you. You will also be asked to sign a consent form.

Your horse will have a clinical examination by a veterinary surgeon before proceeding to CT. A short-stay intravenous catheter will be placed to enable repeat sedation throughout the CT scan. A small area of the neck will be clipped where the catheter is placed.

What happens during the scan

The scan is performed in our dedicated equine CT suite with the horse under sedation. This ensures that your horse is kept still during the process in order to produce the best quality images.

What happens after the CT scan?

The intravenous catheter is removed on completion of the scan. Your horse will be moved into a box to recover from the sedation and then be discharged from the hospital (if this is an imaging only day case).

The CT images will be evaluated by the senior radiologist who will discuss the findings of the scan with the clinician in charge of your horse. It can take up to 24 hours until the full report is available as a large number of images need to be reviewed.

Discharge and next steps

You will be given written discharge instructions summarising the care of your horse following sedation. If further investigation or work is required then your horse will be admitted to our stables.

A full report will be sent to your veterinary surgeon.

If you have any questions, please speak to our RVC Equine team in person or by phone.

Our team of highly experienced vets always work to the highest standards to ensure the safety of your horse.



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