

## Shockwave Therapy Equine Lameness & Imaging Service



# University of Florida Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy for the Horse

### What is extracorporeal shockwave therapy?

Extracorporeal shockwave therapy is a noninvasive modality that uses sound waves to stimulate healing in wounds, ligaments, tendons and bony structures. Horses are usually sedated for the therapy session and treatments last no longer than 30 minutes.

### How does extracorporeal shockwave therapy help my horse?

Extracorporeal shockwave therapy increases blood flow, increases growth of new blood vessels and increases the production of natural healing factors in the treated area which all result in improved speed and quality of tendon, ligament, bone and wound healing. It is often used in cases of suspensory ligament injury, tendon disease, navicular syndrome, neck or back pain and injuries, bone bruising, bucked shins and many other orthopedic problems. It also provides mild, short-term pain relief.

### Who can perform shockwave therapy?

Even though the modality is transportable and can be taken to a rehabilitation facility or farm, a licensed veterinarian should decide if shockwave therapy is best for your horse and should also perform the treatment.



A veterinarian performing shockwave treatment

### Shockwave Therapy

- The area receiving treatment is cleaned and a transducer gel is applied to transmit the soundwaves.
- A transducer that emits the high-energy sound waves is placed on the area receiving the therapy.
- The sound waves provide a rapid increase in pressure as they travel through tissues, stimulating blood vessels and the healing process.

It is important to note that shockwave therapy does not cure lameness issues, but is used to supplement an existing therapeutic treatment plan.

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