

## Digital Radiography

Digital radiography has changed the way equine veterinarians practice. It allows for instant imaging of anatomical structures. This improves efficiency and allows for onsite diagnostics. Not only is digital radiography more convenient, it allows for better diagnostic capability. Images can be altered by changing the contrast and brightness to allow for better resolution. The ability to magnify images allows clinicians to see more subtle abnormalities, which leads to earlier diagnoses. In the process, a CD can be created. Images can also be sent electronically.

## Digital Ultrasonography

Digital ultrasonography, like digital radiography, allows for better image quality and convenience. Ultrasound is used primarily for imaging soft tissue structures. Countryside employs the latest in digital ultrasonography to provide high-detail images. Using digital technology, images can be magnified, enhanced, and stored for future reference. Our digital capabilities provide you with the best possible assessment for diagnosis and prognosis of soft tissue injuries. CDs and electronic files can also be created for easy image sharing.

## Video Endoscopy

Video endoscopy has improved the way veterinarians diagnose and treat a multitude of ailments relating to the airway and gastrointestinal tract. An endoscope is a flexible device with a light source and a video camera on one end; the tip is flexible and the length is variable. Images are viewed on a high-quality monitor. Countryside employs the most advanced endoscopy equipment available. Our equipment is portable for easy on-the-farm diagnosis. We have both a one-meter and a three-meter endoscope allowing for visualization of the upper airway and GI tract.

## Upper Airway Endoscopy

Endoscopy can be used to diagnose many disorders of performance horses. Many of today's performance horses have disorders of the upper respiratory tract. When the upper respiratory tract is affected, the horse's performance is decreased. A one-meter endoscope can be passed into the pharynx to visualize the structures of the upper airway.

Common disorders diagnosed in performance horses are laryngeal hemiplegia (roaring), dorsal displacement of the soft palate and epiglottic entrapment. Each of these conditions results in obstruction of the airway and decreased airflow to the lungs. When airflow decreases, it deprives the body of oxygen often when demand is at its highest.

## Gastroscopy

Gastric ulcers are a common finding in both foals and adult horses. The prevalence of gastric ulcers in adults has been reported to be as high as 52% in clinically healthy horses. The prevalence in those with poor appetites, poor body conditions, or abdominal discomforts can be as high as 100%. Performance horses have an increased risk of gastric ulceration. Diagnosis of gastric ulcers is made based on clinical signs, response to treatment, and endoscopic findings. Gastroscopy is minimally invasive and is the “gold standard” for diagnosis of gastric ulcers.