Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine

Client Informed Consent Form

Title: Radiographic evaluation of the relationship between equine lameness and hind limb plantar angles.

Why is the study being performed?

The plantar angle of the hind limb is the angle measured between the distal aspect of the coffin bone and the ground surface. While a normal range has been established for the forelimb, this has not been reported for the hindlimb. In addition, many veterinarians have noticed an association between a negative plantar angle and clinical hindlimb lameness, but reports of this association are anecdotal and an objective study has not been performed. The purpose of the present study is to compare plantar angles determined radiographically for a control group of sound horses to plantar angles of horses evaluated for hindlimb lameness, using a lameness locator system for objective lameness analysis.

1. **Which animals can participate in this study and what are exclusion criteria?**
   Horses/ponies of any size, sex, age, or breed may be evaluated for participation in the study, as long as they are determined to be healthy enough to undergo lameness evaluation at the trot. Horses with forelimb lameness as determined by lameness evaluation or lameness locator analysis are excluded from continued participation in the study, including radiographs.

2. **What will happen to my animal if we participate in the study?**
   Horses will be evaluated for lameness using the Lameness Locator® system. The Lameness Locator® is a method of objective lameness analysis using small sensors placed on the horse's head, right front limb and croup, near the tail. The sensors are non-invasive and are placed on the horse using tape or a Velcro wrap. The sensors monitor and record the horse's torso movement while the horse is trotting. The recorded information is compared against databases recorded from the movement of healthy horses and lame horses to determine the affected limb and degree of lameness. The evaluation is painless to the horse and takes approximately 15-30 minutes. The horse is classified as either lame or free of lameness (sound). Horses with forelimb lameness are excluded from the study. Horses that are free of lameness and horses that show hindlimb-only lameness will receive radiographs (x-rays) of both hind feet to evaluate

plantar angle. To aid in positioning of the feet for radiographs, the horse may require a dose of xylazine, detomidine, and/or butorphanol for sedation (calming). The drug will be given through the jugular vein. Radiographs will be taken on the same day as the lameness evaluation, but may be scheduled with the owner up to 3 days later if necessary.

3. **Are there any benefits from the study for my animal?**
   Study participants will receive a lameness analysis with the Lameness Locator® system free of charge. If the animal is selected as a member of the sound group or the hind limb lameness group, lateral-medial radiographs will also be performed free of charge. The principal investigator will make a written recommendation to the owner if further lameness evaluation, diagnostics, or treatments are suggested for the benefit of the animal. This recommendation is free of charge. Further lameness evaluation, diagnostics, or treatments undertaken at TUCVM or any other veterinary hospital are voluntary and outside the scope of the current study and are the financial responsibility of the owner.

4. **Are there any risks or discomforts for my animal?**
   Sedation of horses and ponies with intravenous medications is a routine procedure and is performed frequently at the TUCVM and other veterinary practices. A dose that has been deemed safe for most animals has been previously determined and, generally, sedation is a very low risk procedure. However, as with any drug, unforeseen events can occur. All sedative procedures of horses have the following potential complications: anaphylactic ("allergic") reaction, collapse, excitement, iatrogenic injury (caused by medical exam or treatment). The consequences of a horse suffering one or more of these conditions can range from minor to fatal, depending on the degree to which the horse is affected and the organ system involved.

5. **Access to study information**
   Information from this study will not be distributed to you as an individual but may be available through scientific publications. Owner consent will be acknowledged in the publication.

6. **Confidentiality**
   Information, case materials, photos and generic patient information (general, not specific) gathered in this study may be used for scientific presentations and publications. Confidentiality of personal information (client and animal) will be maintained to the extent of the law.

7. **Contact persons regarding this study**
   Participants may contact this individual with questions regarding this study:

   Elizabeth Yorke, DVM, DACVS-LA, CVMMP 334-724-4114 eyorke@tuskegee.edu

Owner acknowledgements:

As legal owner of (or agent for) this animal, I understand and acknowledge the following:

1. I am agreeing to participate in a research study at the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM). The decision for my animal to participate in this study is mine alone and participation is voluntary.
2. I am free to withdraw my consent and to discontinue participation in the study at any time.
3. The decision to withdraw from the study or to disregard the recommendations of the veterinarians involved in the study, relieves the investigators of current and future obligations (both medical and financial) to the animal and/or owner covered by this study.
4. I am responsible for decisions and financial obligations related to treatment(s) sought for my animal at TUCVM or at any other veterinary facility that are NOT specified in this document. This would include treatment for disease progression or for medical complications - related or unrelated to the study.
5. If I withdraw my animal from the study, I may be responsible for medical, diagnostic and treatment costs incurred even if these were originally covered by the study.
6. Any decision to discontinue participation in this study does not entitle me to any financial reimbursement for costs incurred during participation.
7. I have discussed the procedures and benefits and risks of study participation and had the chance to have my questions about the study answered.

_____ _____

Owner Signature Date

Investigator assurances:

I have explained the study details and answered questions to the best of my ability. If the animal is a patient in the Tuskegee University Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital, I have discussed enrolling the patient into this study with the senior faculty member responsible for this patient's care.

_____ _____

Primary investigator Date

_____ _____

Witness Date