

What is Nuclear Scintigraphy?

Scintigraphy (bone scanning) involves the injection of a short-acting radioactive substance into the blood stream that is taken up by the bone. Potentially abnormal regions will have an increased uptake of this substance and emit more radioactivity than normal areas, which we identify with our purpose-built, state-of-the-art gamma camera.

If there are no clinical contraindications (e.g. if a fracture is suspected) your horse will be lunged on the morning of the scan, as this has been shown to improve image quality. Please inform our staff if you think there will be any problems with this.

Your horse will be injected with the radioactive substance 2 hours and 30 minutes prior to the bone scan. In some cases it may be indicated to scan your horse during and

Preparation for Nuclear Scintigraphy

Your horse will be admitted to RVC Equine the day before the scan so we can obtain an accurate weight. This ensures we order the appropriate dose of radioactive substance and allows us to prepare your horse for the scan on the next day.

On arrival your horse will be unloaded by one of our technicians and moved to a holding box during admission. You will be introduced to the clinician dealing with your horse, asked about the history of your horse's problem, and to complete a consent form. Your horse will have a clinical examination by a veterinary surgeon.

What happens on the day of the scan?

On the morning of the scan a short-stay intravenous catheter will be placed to enable safe injection of the radioactive substance and repeat sedation throughout the scan. For this purpose a small area of the neck will be clipped. The intravenous catheter will be removed on completion of the scan.