

Veterinary Surgeons

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Veterinarians • Equine Medicine & Surgery

Veterinary Surgeons

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16th January 2024

VETERINARY REPORT FOR 'RUSTENBURG'

Signalment:

3-Year-Old Bay Thoroughbred Gelding

Microchip:

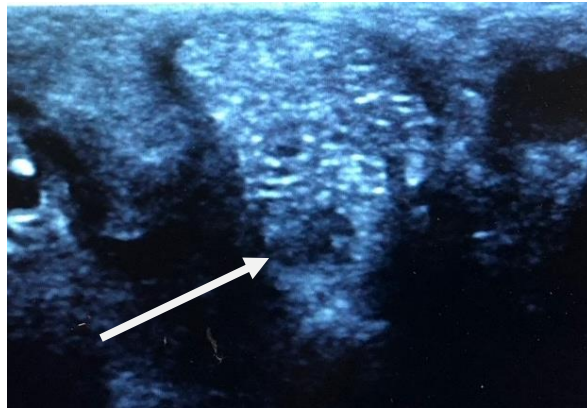
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Trainer:

Mr John O'Shea

'Rustenburg' was examined at the Randwick stables of Mr John O'Shea on the 16th January 2024. On examination, thickening of the right fore medial suspensory branch was noted with associated heat and pain.

Ultrasonography of the branch revealed a Grade 3 lesion within the branch extending from the bifurcation to the distal aspect. There was normal fibre pattern at the attachment of the branch onto the sesamoid. The medial branch was also enlarged when compared to the lateral branch.



Ultrasound image of the right fore medial suspensory branch showing the lesion (tear) within the branch (darker area indicated by arrow).

These findings indicate 'Rustenburg' has a tear in his right fore medial suspensory branch and will require a period of rest and rehabilitation to allow for healing of the injury (likely minimum 6 months). As with all tendon and ligament injuries, there will be a risk of repeat injury when exercise resumes.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS REPORT IS FORWARDED TO THE HORSE'S OWNER AND THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FUTURE CARE OF THE HORSE, AS WELL AS TO THE INSURER, IF APPLICABLE

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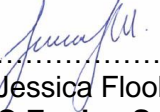
Recommendations for 'Rustenburg':

- Initial box rest for a period of 2 weeks.
- Administer anti-inflammatories - give 10ml phenylbutazone orally once daily for 7 days.
- After 2 weeks, the horse may be allowed small yard rest and walking exercise may commence, starting at 5 minutes daily and increasing by 5 minutes every 2 weeks (see example rehabilitation program below).
- Monitor the branch closely for any increased heat, swelling or pain.
- Repeat ultrasound and examination should be performed at 12 weeks post injury.
- Weight control - he should not be allowed to become too heavy to avoid putting excess strain on the injured suspensory branch.
- His feet should be tended to regularly and be kept well balanced.

Consideration can be given to a course of laser therapy on the right fore medial suspensory branch to promote blood flow to the injured region and thus improve the quality of healing.

Please contact the clinic should you have any questions regarding this report.

Kind Regards,


.....NSW V11571
Dr Jessica Flook DVM
REC Equine Specialists

Suggested rehabilitation program for 'Rustenburg':

Weeks 1 – 2

- See above recommendations.

Weeks 3 - 12

- Small yard rest
- Weeks 3 to 12 – Walking starting at 5 minutes daily increasing at 5 minute intervals every 2 weeks up until 40 mins daily. Walking can be done on the dry walker, in hand or on the flat on a treadmill.
- **Repeat ultrasound examination at 12 weeks post injury.**

Weeks 13 - 26

- Small yard rest.
- Continue walking exercise.
- Weeks 13 to 26 (minimum) – Trot, starting at 5 minutes daily and increasing at 5-minute intervals fortnightly up to 20 minutes daily.
- **Repeat ultrasound examination at 6 months post injury.** Further management should then be based on clinical and ultrasonographic appearance of the branch. If the clinical and ultrasonographic appearance of the branch is favourable, he would be suitable to start some slow canter work in addition to trotting.
- Water walker exercise can be utilised in conjunction with the above program (also introduced slowly and gradually increased).
- Please note that this protocol is a guide and must be varied according to the clinical and ultrasonographic appearance of the branch. If any repeat clinical or ultrasound examination shows poor healing, then the rehabilitation program may have to be modified.
- The right fore medial suspensory branch should be closely monitored. If any increased swelling, heat or pain becomes apparent or lameness is noted, all exercise should be discontinued with the horse re-examined by a veterinarian.
- Ensuring good foot balance and regular trimming/shoeing is essential to reduce the risk of repeat injury.
- All work should be done on a firm, even surface where possible. Hard, deep, uneven and wet ground should be avoided.
- The horse should be kept in relatively light body condition to avoid putting excessive strain on the branch.