

## **Certified Equine IR Thermography FAQs**

### **Q) How does infrared work?**

**A)** Infrared thermography shows temperature differences in the horse's body which are an indicator of inflammation, irritation, disuse, poor circulation and physical stress and/or disease. The problems your farrier, vet, rider or trainer may first notice could be a hidden problem. Certified IR Imaging provides a cost-effective tool that will enable you get the "Big Picture" when monitoring your horse's health and well being.

### **Q) Does Certified IR Imaging (CIRI) make the diagnosis?**

**A)** Absolutely not. EquineIR™ veterinarians make all the diagnoses. CIRI staff consists of Certified Infrared Thermographers who have been trained by EquineIR™ veterinarians in how to conduct professional infrared imaging of the horse. Your Certified IR Imaging Thermographer has been trained and certified by EquineIR™, an international group trained in imaging protocols and reporting. Our thermographer's role is to provide high quality thermal images. These images are taken with every effort to control artifacts and provide the maximum usable information for comparison.

### **Q) How does thermal imaging impact my horse's "normal" preventive medicine program?**

**A)** By providing a cost-effective tool in your arsenal of the diagnostics available to trainers and vets, we can identify areas of stress, injury, or disease weeks or even months before symptoms occur. Our EquineIR™ veterinarian's report, with your veterinarian's findings, along with your trainer's knowledge of the animal, offers a great opportunity for early intervention and treatment of injuries or disease.

### **Q) Do I receive a written report with images for review by my vet and farrier?**

**A)** Yes. Our EquineIR™ veterinarians and our world-class farriers review the imagery and produce report providing you with recommendations in 2-3 business day. Additionally, Certified IR Imaging can forward the report to anyone you designate as we maintain copies of all scans and reports.

### **Q) Do I need to bring my horse to a clinic?**

**A)** Thermal Imaging does not require that you trailer your horse to any off- site location or board them. The scanning is accomplished in 30 minutes. BONUS!

**Q) Does the infrared camera touch or contact my horse?**

**A)** No. Imaging is done 3-6 feet away from the horse and involves absolutely no harmful radiation. Certified IR Imaging utilizes high resolution hand-held thermal imagers, which measure heat being emitted from the horse's body and records it digitally.

**Q) Where does the imaging need to take place?**

**A)** In any clean, dry shelter with a level surface, out of the weather, out of direct sunlight and free of excess bedding material. This can be a dry stall, out building or barn aisle or your vet's examination room.

**Q) Does the weather affect the results of the scan?**

**A)** Yes, it can. During the summer months when ambient temperatures can exceed 85 degrees F, we request the scan take place as early in the morning as possible or in a climate-controlled environment or. Cold weather, on the other hand, can require more exercise pre-scan to obtain quality images of the legs and feet. Horses that are exposed to rain or snow cannot be scanned.

**Q) What is involved in my horse's preparation?**

**A)** We need a dry, groomed horse free of topical medications/solutions. All padding and blankets should be removed at least two (2) hours prior to an exercise and scheduled scan. We will send a complete prep sheet prior to the scan.

**Q) Does Certified IR Imaging use thermography for saddle fit?**

**A)** Yes, we do. Saddle fit is one of the most overlooked areas in your horse's well-being. Many novices and even some professional riders forget that the saddle can cause serious injuries to your beloved horse. As your horse's body changes through age, conditioning and training, saddle fitting becomes more important than ever. Rider symmetry, saddle fit and underlying physical problems can all affect the way your horse performs at the jump, its stride, and its overall disposition in the field or the ring. Thermography can help identify those problems and help you solve them as quickly as possible. Certified IR Imaging can provide you and your saddle fitter with valuable information regarding those changes.