



In the service of equine performance

For the Livet Equine Veterinary Medical Center – the largest horse hospital in France – teamwork is the key to providing horses with a cutting-edge technical platform and the specialized skills for each pathology.

CASE STUDY

Livet Equine Veterinary Medical Center
Saint-Michel de Livet, France



Case Study

INTERVIEW WITH:

DR. SÉBASTIEN CAURE,

VETERINARIAN AND SPECIALIST IN LOCOMOTOR DISORDERS

Horses are true athletes, and equine sports medicine is unique in the veterinary world. For the Livet Equine Veterinary Medical Center, the goal isn't only diagnosis and treatment, but also prevention. At the clinic, which performs 50,000 to 60,000 clinical exams each year, high-performance equipment is indispensable. Integrated within the conventional X-ray room, three digital detectors connected to the MUSICA Workstation, offer a practical and powerful solution even for the most complex exams.





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Dr. Sébastien Caure, veterinarian



When you X-ray a horse, each anatomical structure requires its own parameters. Agfa's help in optimizing the parameters was a big advantage in supporting the quality and strength of our diagnoses.

Dr. Sébastien Caure,
veterinarian





A unique private clinic in France

Normandy is home to 115,000 horses and more than 12,000 foals are born each year, making it far and away the biggest horse breeding region in France and the birthplace of many racing and equestrian sport champions. The Livet Equine Medical Center is situated right in its heart, within the diminutive community of Saint-Michel de Livet.

“In France, to be designated an equine medical center, a clinic must meet precise and demanding specifications, especially in terms of the diplomas held by the staff, but also the equipment, including imaging modalities,” explains Dr. Sébastien Caure, veterinarian and specialist in locomotor disorders.

The Livet Equine Veterinary Medical Center is the biggest horse hospital in

France. The 26 veterinarians include 20 permanent staff members and 6 junior staff who work at the clinic for one year. The 14 other employees include secretarial, maintenance and auxiliary animal care staff. In addition to generalist veterinarians, all specialties are covered: respiratory medicine, cardiology, bone and joint surgery, traumatology, locomotor disorders, gynecology, neonatology etc.

The center welcomes patients 24/7. It principally treats racehorses of all kinds, but also sport horses, especially jumpers. “Of course, since this is Normandy, half of our activity revolves around the horse breeding farms,” highlights Dr. Caure. “This includes vaccinations, prophylaxis, deworming and feeding. Our philosophy is always: prevention!”

Imaging: complementary yet often critical exams

In terms of imaging, says Dr. Caure, “We are well equipped – nothing is missing!” The Center is in fact the only private veterinary clinic in France to have a CT scanner, an MRI and scintigraphy.

“Imaging for horses has evolved a lot over the past years, even though for me it remains a complementary exam,” describes Dr. Caure. “The technology today enables us to go further with investigating the pathology, and there are few high-level athletes who are monitored as closely as horses. These champions are extremely valuable due to their athletic performance, so there is a high financial stake

and the owners are well educated about veterinary techniques.”

Furthermore, the morphology of the horse has specific characteristics, in size and bulk. As they often weigh around 500 kg, a special imaging installation is necessary. The Livet Equine Medical Center has an X-ray room fitted with an X-ray tube mounted on a column, enabling imaging of the horse’s entire body, with a dedicated adjoining room for reading. “Compared to limb imaging, which is quite common today, upper body exams, and especially for the back, require very powerful X-ray generators,” Dr. Caure describes.

Agfa Solutions

DR 10e C detector

(25 x 30 cm)



Light and mobile DR detector, useful for field exams



Improved workflow and speed of exams



Excellent battery autonomy, for **easier mobile use**

14e C detector

(35 x 43 cm)



Compact and ergonomic DR detector



Excellent connectivity with software and with DICOM-compatible imagers



High DQE and optimal pixel size, for **exams at lower dose**

MUSICA Workstation



Analyzes each image and **automatically applies the best parameters** for each type of exam



Offers **excellent visualization**, even for the horse's fine and dense muscle masses



Optimizing dose and image quality

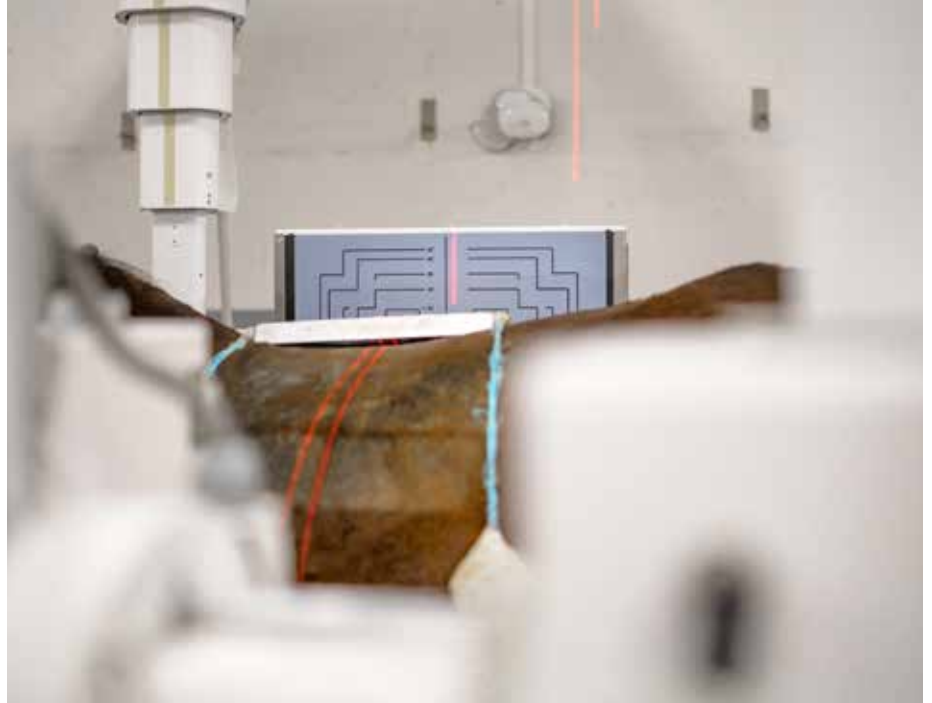
“Before, we were using four computed radiography (CR) cassette digitizers with imaging plates; but we wanted to evolve smoothly to direct radiography (DR). We compared several vendors, including Agfa in partnership with COVETO (a cooperative company created and owned by veterinarians). We organized trials that included back exams, which are more complex than leg imaging,” explains Dr. Caure.

The selection criteria were precise: excellent image quality combined with a dose reduction, optimizing

the X-ray dose in relation to the information delivered.

“The Agfa solution matched the requirements immediately! For the same image quality, the dose was much lower. Furthermore, financially, they had the best offer.” Another criterion that came into play was support. To ensure its ongoing activities, the Livet Equine Veterinary Medical Center must be able to rely on the constant availability of its equipment. “Agfa has a significant presence in France, with national coverage; this helped tip our decision.”





Cover for all types of exams

The center's Agfa solution includes three DR detectors: two DR 10e C (25 x 30 cm) and one DR 14e C (35 x 43 cm). "One of the smaller detectors is used for limb imaging at the center, while the second is used for field exams, which represent 40% of our consultations. The larger detector stays in the Bucky at the imaging room and is used for X-rays of the back, head, neck, shoulders and lungs," comments Dr. Caure.

The new equipment includes the MUSICA Workstation, which intelligently

drives the digital radiography workflow. "Having a monitor right in the X-ray room allows us to verify the images immediately.

With the MUSICA workstation, we can also enter all the identifying information on the horse. The images are then sent to an adjoining reading room via the center's existing system. The information is archived in DICOM format on a NAS (Network Area Storage) as a patient file containing all the data: images, ultrasounds, analyses, reports, etc."



Faster and more precise

"Working with horses often requires a lot of X-rays. It isn't unusual to make 20 to 30 images for a single horse, for example for a valuation or a potential sale," adds Dr. Caure.

"By upgrading to Agfa's DR, we can do this three times faster. The horse doesn't have to wait around, we avoid bottlenecks for the X-ray room, and comfort is increased." For the more complex, upper body images, "the enhanced quality enables us to better understand the origin of certain pathologies."

Finally, beyond the technology, Agfa's expertise remains a major asset.

Dr. Caure explains: "Agfa's support has proven very effective, in particular the expertise of the engineer, who used his know-how to provide us with the best image quality, combined with the lowest possible dose reasonably achievable based on our requests. When you X-ray a horse, each anatomical structure requires its own parameters. Agfa's help in optimizing the parameters was a big advantage in supporting the quality and strength of our diagnoses."





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