

## How to Prepare Your Horse for an Appointment With FREP

- 1) **If this is your first appointment and/or we have not previously met you or your horse**, we request that you, the owner, are present for the appointment. This will allow our team to get to know you and your horse, discuss your goals, and advise you on how to best support your equine athlete. If you are unable to be present for your appointment, please notify our staff beforehand and make sure someone else is on-site to have the horse ready for our veterinarians at your appointment time. This helps to keep the veterinarians and their schedules moving efficiently.
- 2) **For all types of services**, please make sure your horse is as clean as possible prior to the appointment. If your horse is receiving joint injections, our veterinarians will thoroughly scrub and sterilize the site prior to the injection; however, having you remove excess dirt and debris beforehand allows us to do a more thorough job and helps minimize the risk of infection.
- 3) **For body work services**, including acupuncture, chiropractic adjustments, RRT (rapid release therapy), and SureFoot pad sessions, please make sure you have an area that is clear, flat, and not slippery for our veterinarians to work with your horse. Please take weather conditions into consideration if we will be working on your horse outside - we cannot properly work on your horse on ice or snow covered ground.
- 4) **For lameness exams**, please make sure you have a clear, flat area that is big enough for your horse to be jogged in a straight line and lunged in a circle. Depending on the type of lameness, our veterinarians may want to watch your horse move on both hard and soft footing, so if possible, we recommend having access to an arena as well as a source of harder footing such as a dirt/gravel driveway, barn aisleway, or a flat pasture. Please take weather conditions into consideration if we will be working on your horse outside - we cannot properly jog and assess your horse on ice or snow covered ground.
- 5) **For all imaging appointments and RRT sessions**, our veterinarians will need to have a power outlet close by for the equipment while it is in use as these pieces require a constant source of power.

6) **For joint injections**, our veterinarians prefer to perform this procedure indoors on a cement floor such as in a wash stall or barn aisleway. This tends to be cleaner and poses less of a risk of infection caused by dirt and debris entering the injection site.

7) **When calling to schedule a lameness exam**, please make sure to include the following information:

- Is your horse currently being given a medication such as Bute to reduce pain and inflammation? These types of medications can mask symptoms or make them seem less severe. In order to accurately assess the extent of your horse's lameness issue, our veterinarians may recommend your horse be off the medication for a certain period of time before the appointment.
- Has your horse previously received treatment for the same or another type of lameness issues? If so, how long ago was this last treatment?
- Is your horse overweight and/or has it been diagnosed with a metabolic issue? This is important because horses with metabolic issues can experience an episode of laminitis if given treatment that contains steroids. If your horse has metabolic issues and joint injections are recommended, our veterinarians will use a biologic form of treatment that is steroid-free.