

**What to expect when you bring your horse to the University of Florida
Veterinary Medical Center**
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General Information

The Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) at the University of Florida is the teaching hospital of the College of Veterinary Medicine. The College of Veterinary Medicine is one of only 28 veterinary schools in the country. The Large Animal Hospital, part of the VMC, is one of the best teaching hospitals for equine veterinary medicine in the country. The VMC serves many purposes, including providing superb patient care while training veterinary students and residents. The Large Animal Hospital is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for emergencies. Regularly scheduled appointments are typically seen from 9-4, Monday through Friday. Referrals are always recommended as your veterinarian is a key player in your horse's health care team. However, emergencies can be seen without a referral. Although we can see horses for their general health care needs, such as vaccinations and coggins, we recommend utilizing your regular veterinarian for these services.

When your horse is a patient at the VMC, they are worked on by a dedicated team consisting of board-certified specialists; residents and interns (who are graduate veterinarians undergoing additional training in a specialty area); third and fourth-year veterinary students (who work under the direct supervision of our faculty); veterinary nurses and veterinary technicians.

There are separate services within the college whose expertise in a specific area is utilized to provide the most advanced care for your horse. The core services in the LAH include:

Internal Medicine

The medicine service provides advanced diagnostic services and patient management in all aspects of large animal medical care including (but not limited to):

- Advanced equine neonatal care in the Hofmann Equine Neonatal Intensive Care Unit offering 24 hour care by board-certified specialists in a state-of-the-art facility with access to sophisticated diagnostic and monitoring equipment.
- Diagnosis and care of horses afflicted with gastrointestinal disease
- Diagnosis and care of horses afflicted with respiratory disease, including use of open plethysmography to evaluate pulmonary function
- Diagnosis and care of neurological disease in large animals, including use of such techniques as cerebrospinal fluid collection, electromyography and brainstem auditory evoked responses.

Surgery

The surgeons at the UFVMC apply state-of-the-art techniques in combination with the most sophisticated equipment available to provide for all the horse's surgical needs. Services include:

- Diagnostic and surgical arthroscopy using modern arthroscopic equipment
- Expertise in upper respiratory and laser surgery
- Orthopedic surgery for fracture repair and angular limb deformities
- Emergency abdominal surgery
- Expertise in laparoscopic surgery

Equine Lameness & Imaging

Staffed by equine surgeons, this service specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of performance limiting injuries in horses by integrating multiple advanced imaging modalities and state-of-the-art treatment techniques.

Equine Performance Analysis Laboratory

Replete with a high-speed treadmill, a video motion analysis system and cardiac output analysis system, the hospital's performance analysis laboratory allows UF's veterinary team to explore all aspects of performance including respiratory examinations using high-speed treadmill endoscopy and other diagnostic aids and lameness analysis.

Reproduction

The large animal reproduction service provides advanced capability in reproductive medicine and surgery, artificial insemination, and obstetrics.

- Breeding management of mares for transported semen
- Management and treatment of high risk pregnancy mares
- Embryo recovery for embryo transfer in mares
- Breeding soundness exam in stallions
- Semen freezing in stallions
- Infertility (fertility) evaluations and obstetrics in the horse

Ophthalmology

The ophthalmology department at the VMC has the one of the largest equine case loads in the world. They specialize in diagnostic ophthalmology, treatment of uveitis and corneal ulceration, and ophthalmic surgery including cataract and corneal surgery.

After being admitted by one of these services, the expertise of board-certified specialists in other disciplines may be called upon depending on what procedures are required for the diagnosis and treatment of your horse's problem. Some of these services work only with horses and other large animals while some work in both the large and small animal hospitals. Some of the other specialists that may be utilized include:

- anesthesiology
- radiology
- neurology
- cardiology
- dermatology
- clinical pathology
- anatomic pathology

This large network of experts working in a superb facility allows us to provide your horse with the very best while educating the equine veterinarians of tomorrow.