



AGFA RADIOLOGY SOLUTIONS

For the love of horses

At Rockwall Equine Center, Agfa Radiology Solutions' dedicated equine imaging solutions, including MUSICA® and SmartRotate™, are revolutionizing workflow and care.

Case study

Interview with:
Dr. David Celella,
DVM and owner of the Rockwall Equine Center



For Dr. David Celella, DVM and owner of the Rockwall Equine Center, in Terrell, Texas, working with horses is a lifelong labor of love. “I grew up with horses, and there was no question that I would pursue a career centered around on them. I went into veterinary medicine with that in mind,” he explains.

About 35 years ago, he joined a veterinary practice in the Rockwall area of Texas that combined care for large and small animals. “After about a year and a half, I purchased the equine part of the practice and moved it to Terrell.” The Rockwall Equine Center, opened in 1992, now offers a 9,000 sq. ft. temperature-controlled equine hospital with 14 hospital stalls, two isolation and quarantine stalls, and a surgical suite.

The equine center provides a comprehensive range of care services for horses, including digital radiography. “Horses pose some significant challenges when it comes to imaging and X-rays. They are large, powerful animals that are difficult to keep still. So, for example, if you are using a solution with wires or cords, these can get tangled in the horse’s legs, which can be disastrous. And overall, you need to be able to get the imaging completed very quickly,” Dr. Celella highlights.

Transforming equine imaging

During his decades of equine care, Dr. Celella has seen true revolutions in imaging. “We’ve moved from old dip tanks to digital radiography, and now to Agfa Radiology Solutions’ wireless systems.” For two years, Dr. Celella has relied on Agfa’s DR Retrofit with XD panels and MUSICA® image processing. “Agfa’s equine suite is very convenient and easy to use. The system was tailored to my preferences, including nomenclature and preset views for every joint I wanted.”

He adds, “The quality of images produced by the Agfa Radiology Solutions system is unparalleled, offering clarity that has improved our diagnostic capabilities. Furthermore, the ease of use and intuitive nature of the system allow my technicians to operate it independently. This efficiency has enabled us to handle more appointments and complete studies more quickly.”



“With Agfa Radiology Solutions, we have always been able to quickly troubleshoot over the phone. But if there is something more difficult, we know we can rely on Agfa’s on-site support.”

Dr. David Celella

DVM and owner of the Rockwall Equine Center

MUSICA® technology enhances diagnostic confidence

Agfa Radiology Solutions’ innovations in software have brought significant improvements in image quality and workflow to Rockwall Equine Center, according to Dr. Celella. The MUSICA® image processing has been transformative, delivering exceptional image contrast while maintaining soft tissue clarity. “Every vet has their own preferences for what they want images to look like. I like a lot of contrast because it enables me to see the little details. MUSICA® provides clarity and contrast even for difficult areas such as the navicular bone, neck and back.”

He adds, “It also allows us to see more soft tissue than we could before, which makes interpreting the images easier. In fact, you can even see the hairs on the horses’ legs with the Agfa Radiology Solutions system.” He highlights a notable case where this clarity enhanced diagnostic

capability. “A horse came in with a wound above the knee. Because the horse’s lameness seemed extreme based on just the wound itself, we decided to do an X-ray to rule out a foreign body. Instead, with the Agfa system, we immediately spotted a faint line in the bone. Because of this, we did additional imaging a bit higher up, and found multiple fractures in the horse’s radius. The initial line would not have been visible with our older systems.”

The high quality of the images also enhances the reputation of the equine center. “Sometimes, we need to send images to other veterinarians. It’s comforting to know that the good quality images we send reflect well on us, enhancing our credibility. We had a case involving a chest image that went through two referral veterinarians. One was so amazed at the image quality that he called the other to ask what system we were using to get that quality. That was very reassuring for us to hear,” he recalls.



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Dr. David Ceella

Agfa Radiology Solutions’ gold-standard MUSICA® image processing software is customized for imaging large animals. It automatically analyzes the characteristics of each raw image and optimizes the processing parameters.

MUSICA® 3 delivers:

- Better viewing of challenging areas
- Balanced presentation of both bone and soft tissue
- Excellent rendering of overlapping bone structures
- Visualization of subtle details in abdomen
- True presentation of implants with clear bone interfaces
- High level of detail in the mediastinum



“SmartRotate™ rotates images to the proper orientation, automatically, regardless of the direction in which you are holding the detector. This is a big advantage when working with horses, because we can hold the detector in the most convenient and comfortable position.”

Dr. David Celella



SmartRotate™ for Equine

Recently, the addition of SmartRotate™ for Equine to Rockwall Equine Center's vet suite has further streamlined workflows. “SmartRotate™ rotates images to the proper orientation, automatically, regardless of the direction in which you are holding the detector. This is a big advantage when working with horses, because we can hold it in the most convenient and comfortable position.”

With SmartRotate™, a technician no longer needs to worry about how to position a detector, and Dr. Celella

doesn't have to determine how to flip the image for certain views. “Before, we'd have to interrupt a study to swap the image so we could look at it, or keep someone at the computer to handle this. Now, the system automatically orients the images correctly, the first time.”

He adds, “Just this morning, we had a horse with a founder (laminitis) that could not put weight on the leg, so the angle at which we were imaging was not a typical angle. We did not believe that the SmartRotate™ could determine to rotate the image 45 degrees, but it did and oriented the image correctly.”



SmartRotate™ for Equine

This intelligent tool automatically rotates images for 15 of the most common parts in equine imaging to their correct, standard orientation, instantly and effortlessly. It covers:

- Abdomen
- Carpus
- Cervical spine
- Elbow
- Femur
- Fetlock
- Foot
- Head
- Metatarsus
- Shoulder
- Spine (Lumbar and thoracic)
- Stifle
- Tarsus
- Thorax



Ease of use enhances productivity

The ease of use of the Agfa solution has directly increased productivity for the equine center. “It’s very easy for my technicians to use, even those with less experience. I don’t need to oversee each step, so I can be more hands-off. This allows us to do more images, more quickly, enabling us to schedule more appointments.”

Depending on the situation, horses may be imaged in the hospital or in the stalls, so the X-ray system is

used part of the day outside of the main building. “With our previous system, the battery often died in the middle of a study, so we had to bring the charging cord with us. Now, we keep the Agfa detector in the charger until we need it, then take it along for our studies, and it has never run out of power on us. We could bring the charger with us, for example if we knew we would be making multiple big studies, but we haven’t needed to do this so far.”

Tailored for equine care

In equine radiology, DR detectors are essential for capturing clear X-ray images quickly and effectively. Dura-line™ XD detectors come in different sizes to meet various imaging needs. “That’s important, because while you might think ‘the bigger the better’, when you’re working with a potentially dangerous animal, you don’t want to risk the technician dropping the detector because it is too heavy or bulky. So, it needs to be light, as well. Our XD detector is just big enough to get the images that we need—the standard images—and no bigger.”



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Reliability and support

Reliability and support of the X-ray system are crucial to ensure smooth operation and minimize downtime, especially during time-sensitive procedures like imaging sedated horses. “Previously, we had experiences where the vendor wanted us to send the system back to them for repairs, which would leave us without valuable equipment. With Agfa, we have always been able to quickly troubleshoot over the phone. But if there is something more difficult, we know we can rely on Agfa’s on-site support. The detectors are also quite robust; ours have been occasionally dropped or kicked, with no impact on functionality,” explains Dr. Celella.

Agfa’s imaging solutions have transformed the workflow and diagnostic capabilities at Rockwall Equine Center. The unparalleled image quality of MUSICA®, combined with SmartRotate™ and a user-friendly, wireless design, has streamlined operations, reduced guesswork, and improved efficiency. These advancements have not only enhanced productivity but also elevated the center’s reputation. For Dr. Celella, Agfa’s technology is an invaluable asset, allowing his practice to deliver the best care possible for his equine patients.

Agfa Radiology Solutions’ contribution



Durable, portable and smart solutions that offer high-quality equine digital imaging, including:

- Wireless DR Retrofit with Dura-line XD detectors
- MUSICA® image processing
- SmartRotate™ for Equine

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