



Using a Laser Thermoscan

All horsemen know how vulnerable a horse's limbs are and a great deal of time is given to assessing their status.

If horses are engaged in fast or prolonged activities, greater stress is placed upon the limbs and there is greater need for constant monitoring.

What did we do during the last few days?

Did I think the legs were a bit warm a couple of days ago or was it last week?

The necessary time taken in these assessments and the information gained is vital in planning a management programme of work and care.

Even though a trained person's hands should pick up any heat, slight swelling, any wounds or skin problems, *the information obtained may not be as objective* as this important monitoring need to be.

The more we know the better we can manage

How much heat?

Is it better than before?

Is it in the same place?

Has the total area increased?

Does it reduce with exercise, or standing in the stable, or does it increase?

Was it as bad as this yesterday?

A more objective method is to be found by using a

LASER THERMOSCAN

The use of a thermometer will not take away your need to feel your horse's legs, but it will help you to assess and monitor them earlier and more accurately.

Readings can be taken at set points and recorded onto a chart. The chart will also record the day, the time and any notes that are relevant at the time.

As a general routine, it is a good idea to take leg readings for each horse in turn (when limbs show no signs of any problems) over a period of a few days to produce a "norm".

This can then be the basis from which to monitor when the need arises, or when you are wondering if the work effort was too great or the ground too hard for that individual horse.

