



Agfa HealthCare offers equine veterinary practices leading-edge imaging solutions that meet the specific needs of the environment in which they work

The right solution for horses and customers

Case study, Desbrosse Equine Veterinary Clinic, Saint-Lambert-des-Bois
France

AGFA 
HealthCare

Interview with

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Dr. Roland Perrin

Dr. Laurent Brogniez

Sport horses are top athletes with a unique anatomy that is characterized by its complexity and volume of muscle mass. An injury can quickly compromise a horse's career. In order to provide excellence and efficiency to its customers, equine veterinary clinic Desbrosse decided early on to adopt state-of-the-art radiography equipment, and chose Agfa HealthCare solutions. Today, with two mobile kits comprising the Equine DX-D 45 direct radiography (DR) detector, MUSICA next-generation image processing software, a DX-S computed radiography (CR) system and the Enterprise Imaging for Radiology platform including XERO Viewer for remote access to images, the clinic is meeting the challenges of its working environment, improving its diagnostic performance and workflow, and achieving its financial targets.

Initially a general veterinary hospital in Versailles, the Desbrosse clinic was started by Henri Desbrosse. His son Francis Desbrosse carried on the family business, focusing his efforts on horses; he also developed an innovative approach to orthopedic exams for lameness. When he retired nine years ago, veterinarians Roland Perrin and Laurent Brogniez took over the activities in the clinic, which had moved in 1991 to Saint-Lambert-des-Bois, a small village in the department of Yveline, in the Paris region.

Today the clinic specializes in caring for mainly high-level sport horses (jumping, dressage, polo, etc.).

Open 365 days a year, the clinic provides an A-to-Z service for its customers: diagnostics, surgery, emergency, etc. Annually, it carries out orthopedic consultations for nearly 1200 horses, along with 300 surgical procedures and around a thousand standard or urgent procedures. In addition to Dr. Brogniez and Dr. Perrin, the team includes four on-staff veterinarians, two veterinary assistants, and three administrative staff. The clinic's reputation has spread beyond the borders of France, to an international clientele. And while some horses cross the ocean to come to the clinic for treatment, Dr. Brogniez and Dr. Perrin are also frequently called abroad for their equine patients.



EXCELLENCE IS PART OF THE CLINIC'S DNA

The clinic deliberately keeps its size down, focusing on doing everything to satisfy customers and retain their trust. As a result, the clinic has built a reputation for its continuous efforts to provide excellence in all domains. "We use top quality equipment, especially for imaging," highlights Dr. Brogniez. "In order to make sure we got the best, we looked at what was being used in human medicine." The clinic quickly chose

Agfa HealthCare, becoming the first veterinary customer in France to implement the DX-S, in 2008. "We tested it in real conditions with very high-level quality criteria, and we were very satisfied," continues Dr. Brogniez. "At the time, it was already a revolution for imaging, in terms of both diagnostic quality and profitability," adds Dr. Perrin.



For its mobile imaging, the clinic was pleased to stay with Agfa HealthCare, and at the beginning of 2016 implemented two portable DR solutions (with the latest Equine DX-D 45 detectors, MUSICA image processing software and MUSICA workstation); a third portable DR will be added by the end of the year. "Agfa HealthCare did an excellent job of developing its mobile detectors, even though it took a bit longer than some other vendors to bring them to market. But with their exceptional ease of use, the solutions offer a higher quality," comments Dr. Brogniez. "We are always on the move for our work, and the mobile kit is compact, robust and quite light, which is very important considering the feminization of the profession. Whether 20 km from the clinic, or on the other side of the planet, we have the same quality of performance." In 2015, the clinic completed its installation with the first Enterprise Imaging for Radiology platform implemented in a veterinary clinic in France.

Agfa HealthCare's solution

Mobile veterinary DR

- Complete mobile digital radiography solution comprising a MUSICA workstation, MUSICA image processing software and the wireless DX-D 45 detector
- All integrated into a portable, robust and compact kit

DX-D 45 detector

- Detector adapted for use with both fixed and mobile X-ray systems (Automatic Exposure Detection (AED))
- Enhanced workflow and reduced exam time
- Speed of image acquisition: the next image can be made immediately without changing a cassette
- Spare battery



MUSICA DECIPHERS IMAGES FOR A CONFIDENT DIAGNOSIS

For Dr. Brogniez and Dr. Perrin, any discussion of the advantages of these solutions starts with image quality. "The large size of a horse makes radiology difficult. Furthermore, sport horses have a high volume of thick and dense muscle mass, which covers the fine structures," explains Dr. Brogniez. "There are also imaging challenges with the hoof sheath, especially for visualizing the navicular bone. And finally, we have to control movement and positioning. MUSICA, with its high level of definition and excellent contrast for both bone structures and soft tissues responds ideally to these challenges." Parameters are customized and set by Agfa HealthCare technicians. "This is fundamental, because every radiologist has their own preferences for greyscale! The other systems we tested were impossible to customize, which confirmed our decision to work with Agfa HealthCare." For Dr. Perrin, MUSICA offers 'extraordinary' quality. "We compared it to other systems without this software and MUSICA is an enormous advantage, enabling us to get excellent information from every image."

With images available in only a few seconds, the speed of image acquisition is another major benefit. "We see about 16 horses every day. It used to take us 1.5 hours to do a radiology assessment for one horse; now it takes only 45 minutes," continues Dr. Brogniez.

"MUSICA is extraordinary. It offers us excellent image quality that enables us to improve our diagnostic confidence and thus our knowledge."

– Dr. Roland Perrin, Veterinarian

The financial benefit of this speed is felt strongly, as imaging offers the clinic the greatest returns. "In a musculoskeletal assessment, this is what has the highest cost. For example, within a treatment bill of, say, 500 euro, imaging counts for nearly 400 euro," Dr. Perrin explains. But it also has a big impact on customer satisfaction: "Contrary to what you might think, horses are quite patient! But the enhanced speed from the Agfa HealthCare solution is a real benefit for the grooms and handlers who accompany the horses. They have work waiting for them at the stables, and don't have any time to waste," explains Dr. Perrin.

Agfa HealthCare's solution

MUSICA Large Animals image processing software

- Adapted to veterinary needs
- Consistently high image quality and high level of contrast
- Automatically applies the appropriate image enhancement parameters independent of the exam type, without intervention by the veterinarian
- Excellent image quality provides the potential for dose reduction

Enterprise Imaging for Radiology platform

- Images stored in a single archive: radiography, ultrasound and MRI
- Intuitive interface for smooth workflow
- Management of the care continuum
- Scalable to needs



XERO VIEWER: ALL IMAGES, “ANYWHERE, ANYTIME”

With the Enterprise Imaging for Radiology platform, the clinic can archive its images securely. The connectivity enables all of the DICOM modalities of the clinic – radiography, ultrasound and MRI – to be integrated, and all the information to be included in the animal’s patient file. “With the XERO Viewer, the database is accessible from outside the clinic using a simple internet connection, on a smartphone or tablet, for example. The images can be accessed from anywhere in the world,” comments Dr. Perrin. “We showed it to one of the best equine radiologists in the U.S., who was completely blown away by the technology!”

Like radiologists, the veterinarians are taking measures to protect themselves from the imaging radiation. “In human imaging, staff can protect themselves better; but we are more exposed because we are positioned next to the horse. Therefore, our goal is to avoid repeating images,” Dr. Brogniez highlights. “The Agfa HealthCare detectors can work with lower doses of radiation, which reduces risk. And the system stability and image quality mean fewer unnecessary images, which lets us further reduce the risks of staff exposure.”

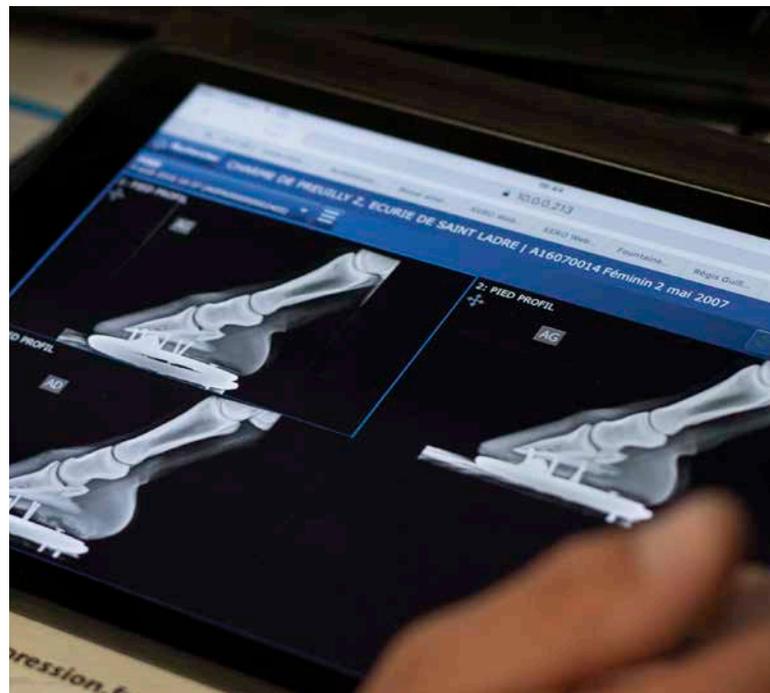
“The XERO Viewer enables us to consult images that can be accessed from anywhere in the world, using only a simple internet connection.”

— Dr. Laurent Brogniez, Veterinarian

Agfa HealthCare’s solution

XERO Viewer

- Remote access to imaging information
- Uses a simple internet connection
- Visualization of images on tablets or smartphones



AGFA HEALTHCARE: A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE!

Lastly, the veterinarians at the Desbrosse clinic highlight the excellent support services they receive from Agfa HealthCare – a key criterion for this clinic that must be able to rely on the availability of its imaging equipment at every moment. “Agfa HealthCare’s support team offers us responsive service and high quality maintenance. They can even provide the service remotely in certain cases, accessing the detectors,” adds Dr Brogniez, before concluding: “All the benefits we have received from our Agfa HealthCare imaging solutions definitely offer us a competitive advantage!”

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