

In the initial study evaluating the efficacy of OsPhos as a treatment for navicular disease 114 horses who had been confirmed to have navicular disease¹ were enrolled in a blind study. Of the 86 horses who received OsPhos, 67 percent improved one degree of lameness within 28 days compared to 20 percent who received a placebo and rest alone (on a scale of 0-5 with 0 being sound and 5 being non-weight bearing lame). By 56 days post treatment 74 percent of the OsPhos horses had improved at least one lameness grade compared to only 3 percent who remained sound that received a saline placebo. Furthermore of the horses treated with OsPhos 9 percent had an improvement of three lameness grades, 52 percent improved by two lameness grades and 18 percent of horses improved by one lameness grade.

Due to the long standing and progressive nature of Colonel's lameness he was placed on an oral pain reliever for 15 days to provide immediate relief. He was also given initial injections of a rapid acting cortisone and hyaluronic acid into each front coffin joint. At the same

time he was given an intramuscular injection of OsPhos and sent home with instructions to schedule a re-evaluation in 56 days.

After 56 days of rest, Colonel K was reassessed and found to be sound at the walk-trot over a hard flat surface. Thereafter he was put back to work in a slowly progressive fashion increasing the intensity and duration of saddled exercise over a five-week period. Subsequently staying sound, he was allowed to start running patterns at eight weeks and has been sound since.

As this case depicts, navicular syndrome can be quite challenging to treat as it often takes many different modes of therapy to help keep horses comfortable. While many horses with navicular syndrome can be maintained with proper shoeing and infrequent maintenance injections of their navicular bursa or coffin joints, a subset of horses with more severe radiographic findings can be a challenge to manage via the conventional route.

Time has seemed to serve as additional evidence in Colonel's case

that OsPhos therapy is yet another modality that can be quite helpful. Helping horses live happy and sound lives with the appropriate care in the discipline for which they were raised and trained is a fulfilling goal.

¹*Freedom of information summary: Original new animal drug application Osphos April 28, 2014 NADA 141-427 OSPHOS Clodronate injection Horse. For the control of clinical signs associated with navicular syndrome in horses. Sponsored by: Dechra, Ltd.*



Dr. Maker obtained his education at Penn State, the University of Tennessee and at the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Minneapolis where he interned. He practiced in a large equine and cattle practice in north central Minnesota for 3 years before joining Alpine Animal Hospital in Carbondale, CO, in 1997.