

# VIRTUAL ASSESSMENTS

## Heart In Hand Equine Specialty

Over the last few years, I've found myself doing a lot of unorganized and chaotic virtual assessments for clients. Next thing we know, it's taken 2 days to gather all the content I need and usually takes another 2 days of filling in all the blanks. The virtual assessment service has been formatted to give you all the requirements in one simple PDF so both parties can stay organized without missing information for a statistically stronger virtual assessment. *This does not replace a veterinary exam.*

Clients have reached out several times asking for virtual assessments to help support:

- Choosing a direction with mild acute lameness
- Chronic lamenesses
- In-between appointment progresses/regressions
- Part of an owner's Pre-Purchase exam
- Help the practitioner to decipher client feedback

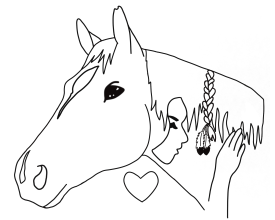
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## CONFORMATION PHOTOS

More photos the better, however these are the mandatory views required. Try and position the horse as square as possible on a flat surface. Please remember to take photos with the sun ideally behind the camera or without shadow.

1. Whole body left
2. Whole body right
3. Anterior angle (in front of/chest view)
4. Posterior angle (behind/hind limb view)
5. Superior angle (above/spinal view)
6. Cranial angle (head positioned straight)

Example:



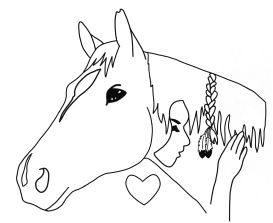
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## REQUIRED VIDEO OF GAIT

The gait assessment is one of the most important pieces to this virtual assessment. Even if you're reaching out with a physical anomaly that you've detected - I will still need gait assessment videos.

**Mandatory:**

1. Walking in a straight line away from the camera and back
2. Trotting in a straight line away from the camera and back
3. Walking in a straight line across the camera lens left and right
4. Trotting in a straight line across the camera lens left and right
5. Back up



**If the horse is able to lunge (mentally and physically) I will also require:**

6. Walk roughly 3 circles and transition into trot roughly 3 circles to the left
7. Change direction
8. Walk roughly 3 circles and transition into trot roughly 3 circles to the right

**If the horse is presenting with problems in the canter, I will also require video of:**

9. Canter right lead ideally +3 circles
10. Canter left lead ideally +3 circles

Copy and paste the link below to see an example of gait assessment that I have created on youtube.

<https://youtu.be/z35wF2IHxkU?si=aE2eNw43lujbO30y>

#### **Video Tips and Tricks:**

- Having a second person operating the camera is very helpful
- Find as flat of ground as best you can
- Keep the sun behind the camera to avoid glares/shadowing
- Keep videos short (break them up) so that it is easier to send
  - Can combine videos and upload videos to youtube then send the link.
  - Videos can also be delivered over messenger or email. *Do not send over text as the quality becomes too compromised.*
- If obtaining video by yourself, free lunging in the round pen is easier than trying to film and lunge
- If videoing by yourself, prop your phone on something elevated and press record! I also have a super affordable tripod that I purchased off amazon!
- Have dogs tied/controlled for the video to the best of your abilities.

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## HOOF ASSESSMENT PHOTOS

The topic we all try to avoid, and yet the most important... the hooves. Some of the most common lameness problems come from the foot. While the hoof structure can impact the body, the body integrity can also negatively impact the hoof structure. *I do not replace a farrier* but I do find it helpful working with your farriers! If we are suspecting that the hoof can be contributing to body soreness - I will ask for photos of each hoof. This is to understand the rehabilitation process or to see if there are any underlying hoof pathologies that may be undetected.

#### **Hoof Tips and Tricks:**

- Hooves must be cleaned
- Take photos from ground level the best you can
- Find as flat of ground as possible
- If standing on grass, use a piece of cardboard to place the hoof on for clean lines
- You can create a collage of each hoof like in my example (do not need the numbers) but must be labeled which hoof (ex. LF, RH, RF, LH) and make sure the whole hoof is visible and not cut off.

Organization is very important when sharing hoof photos. Each photo should be labeled to each foot. Each hoof needs 6 photos.

1. Lateral (hoof bearing weight from a side angle)
2. Anterior (hoof bearing weight from a front angle)
3. Posterior (hoof bearing weight from the back of the hoof)
4. Solar view
5. Lateral solar view (hoof picked up and photo angled from the side)
6. Distal solar view (camera angle looking straight down the back of the hoof)



**Example:** (of a poorly functioning/rehabilitation project hoof)

**Content will be discussed and shared together via:**

- Email
- Messenger
- Text (*videos cannot be shared unless on an external link*)



From these assessments, especially the videos of the gait, I am able to help support you in the next steps to start your journey to whole horse health. I have been able to help horses seek immediate veterinary care as soon as possible, as well as de-escalate non-life threatening situations from afar. I've also been able to direct owner's on a more successful journey by understanding their current horse's state clearer and being able to create a program that best first meets their unique health profile needs. This is a *safe* and *affordable* first step investment into your horse's health journey!

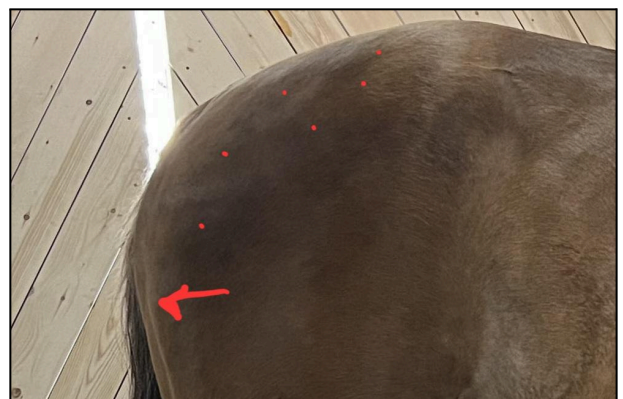
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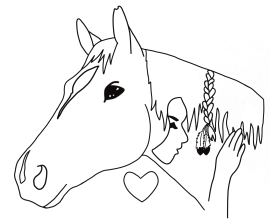
## WHAT TO EXPECT WITH A VIRTUAL ASSESSMENT

Virtual assessments will be as thorough as the content you supply. The virtual assessment not only introduces me to the issues the client is discussing, but it can also be a really great documented starting point for your journey with your horse.

*These virtual assessments do have a higher degree of error as we are completely looking at just a moment in time. They do not replace a veterinarians exam, nor do they replace an in person assessment.*

I will be looking at the body as a whole based on the photos supplied. I will look for compensational patterns that may be the reason for anomalies discussed (or hidden) or I will take the time to explain why I feel it may be a conformational flaw. I will also use marked photos and content to help explain what I'm seeing and help train your eye based on the photos supplied.





## TO DO LIST

Use this checklist at home to make sure you have all the content needed for your virtual assessment appointment.

### Photos:

- Whole Body - Left
- Whole Body - Right
- Anterior Chest
- Posterior Hind End
- Superior
- Anterior Cranial

### Videos:

- Walk straight line away and back to the camera
- Trot straight line away and back to the camera
- Walking in a straight line across the camera lens left and right
- Trotting in a straight line across the camera lens left and right
- Back-up
- Walk roughly 3 circles and transition into trot roughly 3 circles to the left
- Change direction
- Walk roughly 3 circles and transition into trot roughly 3 circles to the right
- Canter right lead ideally +3 circles
- Canter left lead ideally +3 circles

### Hooves:

- Lateral (hoof bearing weight from a side angle)
- Anterior (hoof bearing weight from a front angle)
- Posterior (hoof bearing weight from the back of the hoof)
- Solar view
- Lateral solar view (hoof picked up and photo angled from the side)
- Distal solar view (camera angle looking straight down the back of the hoof)

## ADDITIONALLY

Don't forget to include distinct unique characteristics of your horse and their symptom profile. This can, but not limited to, include:

- Skin irritations
- Wounds
- Swellings or edemas
- Sarcoids
- Scars
- Previous surgical sites
- Abnormal areas in question
- Abnormal sweat patterns
- Include video/photo of any "out of character" behaviors in progress
  - Can have a neurological presentation
  - Can have an aggressive presentation
  - Can be an explosive presentation
  - Can present as a "habit"
  - May be difficulties getting up from lying position
  - Can present as change in athletic performance
- If there is a comparison you are making, *for example: 11/11/2020 to 11/12/2020* please include the content in which you are comparing.
- If you are in a hoof rehab program - please share your current plan that has been established with your farrier.
- Include any veterinarian documentation if possible and available.

