

# Case Study

## “Dada Des Brimbles”

8 Year Old Warmblood gelding – High Level Showjumper

**History:** Recurrent forelimb lameness that improves with short periods of rest and then returns following competition. Presented for lameness examination. Grade 3/5 left front lameness identified. Most notable when circling on a hard surface. Lameness improves with a palmar digital nerve block (ie. anaesthesia of the foot region).

**Radiographs:** Mild navicular bone changes.

**MRI Examination:** There is marked fluid signal throughout the front half of the short pastern bone, adjacent to the coffin joint. The shape and internal anatomy of this bone are normal. The coffin joint contains increased fluid (effusion) and thickened synovium (joint tissue).

**MRI Diagnosis:** Marked bone contusion (bruising) of the left front middle phalanx with concurrent inflammation in the coffin joint.

**Comment:** Bone bruising in this location is common in jumping horses due to the concussive forces placed upon the short pastern bone during landing. These injuries do not necessarily result in a change to shape or anatomy of the bone and are therefore impossible to identify with the more traditional

imaging modalities such as x-ray and ultrasound. They can be very painful (similar to when you hit your thumb with a hammer and get bleeding under the nail) but respond favourably to appropriate rest.

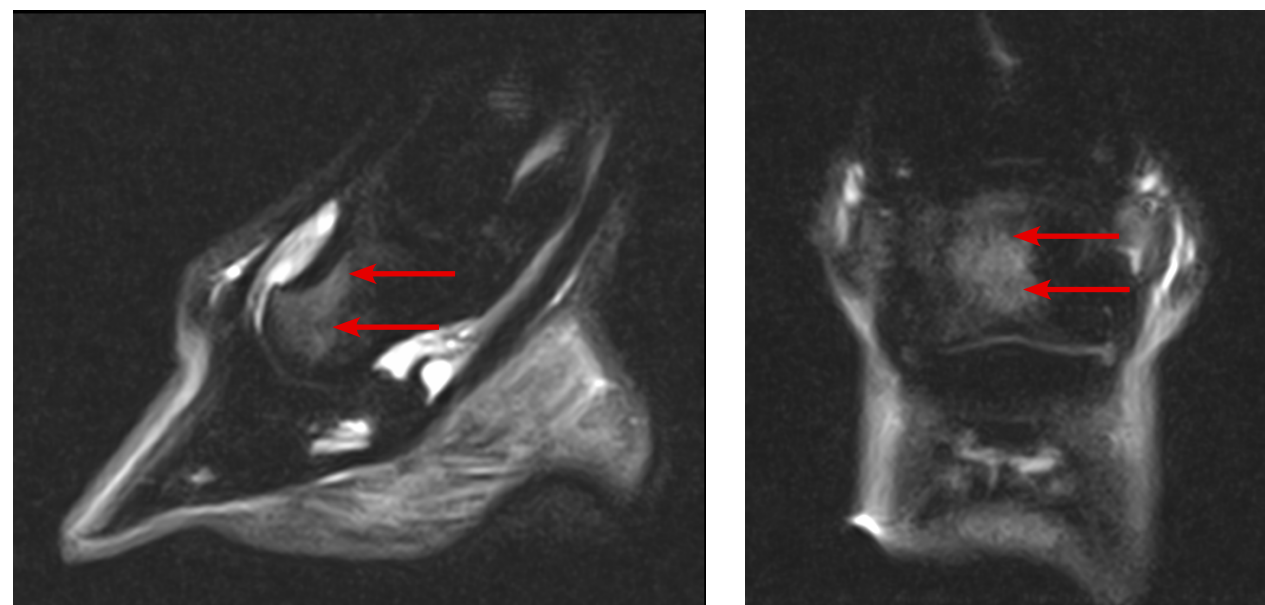
**Outcome:** Good response to rest and rehabilitation. Recheck MRI 3 months later and prior to resuming jumping showed complete resolution of the bruising. Back on track and jumping well prior to the start of COVID-19.

**The MRI Advantage:** Without a definitive diagnosis, the initial periods of rest were insufficient for the pathology to resolve in this patient. Using the MRI to identify the specific injury sustained and then to assess for complete resolution of the pathology prior to return to competition meant that “Dada” received appropriate rest and rehabilitation without an excessive period of time away from competition.

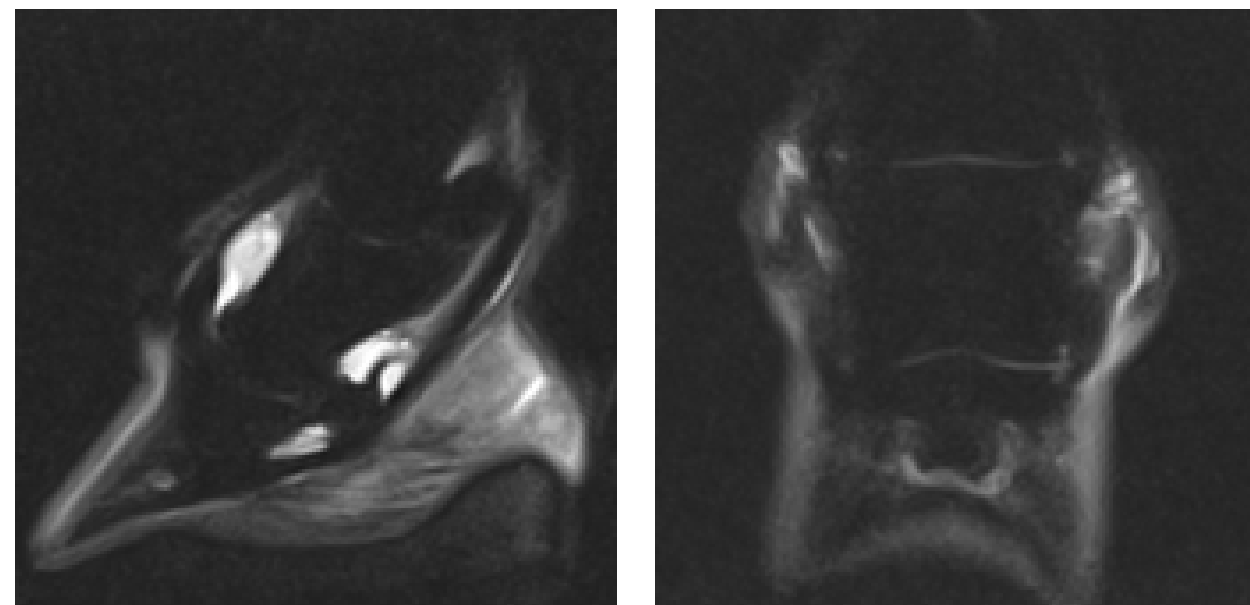
**Ask your vet if MRI could help or contact us for more information:**

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Initial MRI



Follow-up MRI (3 months later)



Standing Equine MRI by:

**Hallmarq**  
Advanced Veterinary Imaging

Case provided by:

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