

Thermal Imagery Cameras Provide Closer Look at Horse Injuries

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(Strafford, MO) -- Firefighters use thermal imagery cameras to see through smoke and find people caught in the flames. The technology is also being used to help locate animal injuries.

Local home inspector Steve Mirowski already uses a thermal imagery camera to find water leaks in houses. He's now giving owners a peek under their horses' skin.

photograph.

"Beautiful," Mirowski says as he snaps a

A beautiful animal with a difficult hoof injury.

"I'm hoping with this technology we'll be able to see what exactly is hurting," horse owner Lynn Vandenberg says.

She wants to know if the pain extends through her horse's shoulder.

"Normal x-rays can't get that deep," Vandenberg says.

But thermal imagery shows soft tissue.

"A horse needs to be exercised before we get here," Mirowski says.

Exercise warms the muscles.

"Let me see that photo," Mirowski says. "Make sure I got the right one."

Through the lens, warm colors like red and orange indicate heat and cool colors like blue show cooler temps.

"We're looking for variation in the horse which would indicate to the vet something's going on," Mirowski says.

At a cost of \$250, thermal imagery is cheaper than X-rays or CAT scans but Mirowski says it doesn't replace those procedures.

"It's just another means of getting the information," he says. "When you look at a horse you can't look at both sides simultaneously but when you put the photos together, you can."

Mirowski sends the photos to a veterinarian who will analyze the horse's injury.



"When the farrier comes to shoe him we'll all get together as a team and try to make the horse more comfortable," Vandenberg says.

Just like when we try on shoes, a different fit might be more comfortable for the horse.

One advantage to thermal imagery is the horse doesn't have to be sedated, something that's often necessary for an X-ray.

[Click here to learn more about Steve Mirowski's company, Mirowski Inspections.](#)

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