IT'S YOUR CASE

Species: Equine  Breed: Thoroughbred  Sex: Gelding  Age: 5 months

Clinical History:
Intermittently lame for the past four weeks. A low 4 point nerve block improves the lameness by 70%.

Details of study:  LM, DP, DMPLO, DLPMO radiographs of the left metatarsophalangeal joint.

Diagnostic interpretation:
- A smoothly marginated defect is visible in the distal aspect of the sagittal ridge of the third metatarsal bone in the left limb. This is located just lateral to the midline. Distal to this there is an ill-defined osseous fragment which corresponds to the shape of the defect.
- The distal physis of the third metatarsal and proximal physis of the first phalanx is partially closed and within normal limits for the age of the patient.

Conclusions:
- Osteochondrosis of the distal sagittal ridge of the third metatarsal bone.
Figure: DP view of the left metatarsophalangeal joint showing the defect in the sagittal ridge (arrows). The ill-defined

Additional comments:

Additional views such as flexed LM views and DPrDDiO views are recommended for further evaluation.

The articular cartilage and the lesion could be evaluated using ultrasound with the limb flexed.

Intraarticular analgesia may give additional information about clinical significance of this finding.

Teaching Points:

- Osteochondrosis can be bilateral, even if the horse is only showing lameness in one limb. If a lesion is detected in one limb, radiographs of the contralateral limb are recommended to screen for bilateral disease, as was present in this case.
- For images and descriptions of beam angles and corresponding anatomy highlighted in the fetlock, see: