

Owner's Informed Consent: Muscle diseases in horses

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

General Information. The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine is investigating the genetic basis of muscle disease in horses. Our goals are to determine the physiological and genetic (if any) basis for muscle disease and to enable accurate diagnosis and prognosis of this condition. This will ultimately allow the development of a simple blood-based DNA testing program to control the propagation of the muscle disease through informed and selective breeding.

A blood sample, drawn from the jugular vein by the research team or your veterinarian, OR a hair root sample drawn by you (the horse's owner), will be sent to the University of Minnesota Equine Genetics Laboratory. All results will be kept confidential.

The following data will be collected for this study:

1. Survey responses via Qualtrics
2. Photos, videos, and medical files of your horse(s) via Dropbox
3. Hair roots or blood samples for genotyping
4. Hay, grain, supplement samples (US participants only)
5. Sample submission sheets

Voluntary Participation. Participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you agree to have your horse(s) participate, you do so voluntarily, and may withdraw at any time for any reason. Comprehensive results will be provided to owners upon completion of the study.

Privacy and Confidentiality. Any personal identifying information will be kept confidential throughout the study. Data that can be directly or indirectly identified to you, your horse(s), and your veterinarian will be separated from your horses' study data and replaced with a subject ID before it is used for research and analysis. All information the University of Minnesota receives from third parties, including Qualtrics, Google, and Dropbox, is protected. More details are available in our [Data Management Plan](#).

Risks. The blood draw procedure is routine and we do not expect any complications, however on rare occasions mild discomfort, or a hematoma (swelling) at the venipuncture site may occur, and can be treated with pressure. However, these complications are rare, and almost always resolve themselves in a couple of days. Additionally, there is a minimal risk of a data breach of your personal information, and that of your horse, when provided electronically. If this occurs, we will notify you within 72 hours.

Costs. Other than the veterinarian fee for blood collection and the sample shipping charge there are no additional costs to you for participation in this study. In some cases, we may pay the shipping charge, but this must be approved ahead of time. The cost of the DNA extraction and genotyping will be covered entirely by the research team.

Follow-up. It is likely that you or your veterinarian will be contacted by phone to clarify responses to the questionnaire. At this time we will also provide additional information as to how you could participate further.

Study Contacts. The contact for this study is Dr. Molly McCue at (612) 625-6731.

Informed consent: I, _____ understand that there may be unforeseen risks involved in any research activity. If I have any concerns about the performance of this study I can contact the Chairman of the Veterinary Population Medicine Department at The University of Minnesota, Dr. Tom Molitor, at (612) 625-7755, or the Institution animal care and use committee (IACUC) IACUC@umn.edu, phone: (612) 626-2126.

Owner signature and date

Investigator signature and date