



Research Sample Protocol

Megaesophagus, Aortic Rupture, Gastroparesis/Gastric Rupture or Connective Tissue Disease in Friesian Horses

Please notify us prior to collecting or shipping any samples.

Required Documentation: Email the veterinarian report characterizing case history and findings or necropsy report (preliminary or final) to angie@fenwayfoundation.com.

Living Horses

Sample: Two 10-12 ml draw blood tubes with EDTA (purple top) or acid- citrate-dextrose (ACD yellow top) anticoagulant.

Storage: The blood may be stored in the refrigerator if it cannot be shipped right away. Ideally, ship the blood within three days of collection.

Packing: Blood must be shipped in a leak-proof container. Veterinarians often have foam blood tube shippers to prevent breakage. Place the shipper in a plastic bag or place the blood tubes in a plastic bag before packing them. If you don't have blood tube shippers, use a regular box but pack as you would if you were shipping any glass item and put the tubes in a Ziplock bag.

Deceased or Euthanized Horses

Necropsy: Key areas of interest for this study include any characterizations of abnormal collagen or connective tissue anywhere in the body.

Tissue Samples Requested for Histology (Preserve in Formalin):

- **Esophagus:** Any abnormal tissue in the esophagus. Areas of hypertrophy or dilation.
- **Heart:** Any Abnormal cardiac tissue. Areas that are indicative of aortic aneurysm, fistula, or rupture. Specific areas of interest include the major heart vessels, aortic arch, and ductus arteriosus.
- **Stomach:** Any abnormal tissue from the stomach wall or pylorus. Any areas of hypertrophy or dilation.
- **Aberrant Wound Healing:** Tissue from irregular wound healing.

Tissue Sample for DNA Extraction (Only if blood cannot be drawn prior to death or euthanasia): If the horse is deceased or has been euthanized before a blood sample could be drawn, remove a small piece of tissue from the chest muscle for DNA extraction. Ship on cold packs only. Do not freeze or suspend in formalin. Immediately ship overnight.

Shipping Address & Instructions (All Samples)

Dr. Kathryn T. Graves
Animal Genetic Testing & Research Laboratory
108 Gluck Equine Research Center
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40546-0099 USA
PH: 859-218-1193

- Insert a copy of the owner consent form in the bag with the sample. Alternatively signed form can be emailed to angie@fenwayfoundation.com.
- Ensure the samples are labeled with the horse's name and owner's name.
- If the temperature outside is high or the samples are shipping from the West Coast, it is recommended that you include a cool pack.
- Ship samples via overnight service. DO NOT ship samples with a weekend arrival date. No one is at the lab to receive the samples over the weekend.



Research Consent Form

Genetic Testing at Gluck
108 Gluck Equine Research Center
Lexington KY, 40546-0099
(859) 218-1165

STUDY: Genetic Basis of Megaesophagus, Aortic Aneurysm, Gastroparesis/Gastric Rupture or Connective Tissue Diseases in Friesian Horses

Horse's Registered Name:

Owner Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I certify that I am the owner/agent of the above horse and that I voluntarily submit material from this animal to be used for the purpose of research at the University of Kentucky. I understand that I shall have no claim to monetary compensation should use of this sample result in commercial testing applications. Confidentiality will be strictly maintained for all submitted samples.

X _____ Date: _____