



# 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](mailto:angie@fenwayfoundation.com).

**Reimbursement:** The Fenway Foundation provides reimbursement for research sample collection and shipping charges. Please submit a copy of your detailed receipt/invoice to [angie@fenwayfoundation.com](mailto: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 the site of 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  
(859) 218-1193

- Insert a copy of the owner consent form in the bag with the sample. Alternatively, the signed form can be emailed to [angie@fenwayfoundation.com](mailto: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:

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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: \_\_\_\_\_