



AHDC Contacts

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Equine Lyme Disease Testing

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUBMITTING SAMPLES:

1. Please use a different accession form for each OWNER, please indicate breed as this will help us correctly match up future submissions on the same horses.
2. If testing is routine surveillance of animals please tell us. We will NOT pair these samples with previous submissions.
3. If testing is to check on response to treatment –
 - a. The initial post treatment test should not be obtained until 4 months after treatment initiation. Generally, significant changes in antibody titers are not detectable before this.
 - b. Please provide us with the previous Lyme Accession number as it will help us locate the initial sample for comparison.
 - c. Tell us you are checking treatment response.
 - d. Please request the Western Blot if you know you will want those results as we do not automatically do this. Otherwise we will run the ELISA paired, and NOT add the Western even if the results are in the equivocal range.
4. If the horse has been **vaccinated** for Lyme **ALWAYS** request the Western Blot and give us the date (month/year) of the Lyme vaccine. Western Blot is the only way to determine the origin of Lyme-specific antibody in vaccinated horses.
5. We will continue to add Western Blots to those samples with results in the equivocal range unless you request otherwise.
6. If you know you want Western Blots on all positive samples – please let us know and we will automatically add the WB to all equivocal and positive samples from your practice.
7. If the horse is symptomatic, you may wish to request the Western Blot in all cases.

EQUINE LYME SERODIAGNOSIS:

Equine ELISA: Equine ELISAs are prone to false positive results. The ELISA is run only as a screening test.

- **Western Blot** is required to confirm horses that have ELISA results in the equivocal range (130 – 380 ELISA Units.)
- **Western Blot** is required to determine the origin of Lyme-specific antibody in vaccinated horses.
- About 52% of horses tested in ELISA give equivocal results and require Western Blot confirmation.
- Horses must have 4 of the 5 bands to assure that no false positives are reported.
- Horses are often symptomatic early in infection (when they test equivocal on both ELISA and Western Blot) and may respond well to antibiotics at that stage.