

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

July 23, 2012

The Friesian Horse Society, Inc.
17670 Pioneer Trail
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

Dear Linda Clair:

Thank you for your willingness to help us with our study on the esophageal disease in Friesian Horses. As you are already aware, we would like to further investigate this condition to a) detect the suspected genetic defect, and b) develop a test for this defect in order to allow selective breeding against such defect. Our working group is composed of Dr. Matti Kiupel and Dr. Ingeborg Langohr, both PhD, board certified veterinary pathologists, Dr. Misa Komine, veterinary pathologist in training, and Dr. Patrick Venta, PhD, molecular geneticist, all at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University.

For proper genetic analysis of the disease, we would need 30 whole blood samples drawn in EDTA or sodium citrate (but **NOT** heparin) from Friesian horses older than 15 years with no evidence of esophageal dysfunction, as well as 30 blood samples or any fresh/frozen tissue samples from Friesian horses that have evidence of such disease clinically characterized by choke, hypersalivation, regurgitation, and/or esophageal dilation, possibly accompanied by respiratory signs due to aspiration pneumonia. We would also like to get cheek swabs from all horses, together with their full signalment, clinical history and contact information of the owners. The research would be further strengthened by having information on the ancestral lineage of the affected animals. Please be assured that all information will be kept strictly confidential.

The samples and accompanying data should be shipped to us, preferentially overnight, to the following address:

Ingeborg Langohr/Matti Kiupel
Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health
4125 Beaumont Road
Lansing, MI 48910-8104

Please accept our sincere thanks and appreciation for your help with this.

Sincerely,

Ingeborg Langohr and Matti Kiupel...



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Investigation**

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