



THOROUGHBRED
BREEDERS
Australia



AgriFutures™
Thoroughbred
Horses

Frequently Asked Questions Post-Mortem of Late-Term Pregnancy Loss Project

What are the costs for breeders?

There are no costs for breeders to have their foetuses assessed under this project. However, breeders are expected to drop off the foetuses and ensure it fulfills the criteria by contacting the assigned Darling Downs Vets. Please note, there is a limited number of post-mortems covered by this project.

How do I take part in this project?

It is essential for breeders to reach out to Dr. Stephen Rayner at Darling Downs Vets, 0407 623 633 or 07 4691 9000, before drop-off. If a foetus is confirmed as eligible breeders will be provided with results free of charge.

Are all foetuses eligible?

Due to predation there can be foetuses that don't fulfill the criteria for the project. As a general guide, the foetus should have an intact thorax and most of the abdominal organs (any three of the lungs, thymus, liver or spleen). Furthermore, there needs to be a majority of the foetal membranes: at least two of the amnion (sack around the foal), the umbilical cord, or the chorioallantois (placenta).

What happens if my foetus isn't eligible?

If an unusable foetus is dropped off without contacting the veterinary practice, breeders may be liable for disposal charges. Breeders also may be given the option to continue with the post-mortem at their own expense of approximately \$1,500.

How important is it to complete the consent form?

A completed consent form is essential for all breeders who wish to access the funding. If the Darling Downs Vets hasn't received a signed consent form before or with the foetus, they will not start the post-mortem. This consent form is attached to this email and will also be available at the practice.

Who has access to the results of the post-mortem?

The breeder who provides the foetus, Darling Downs Vets and the project's lead researcher, Dr Joan Carrick, will be the only parties who see the details of a post-mortem. The results utilised in the research will not include any details of mares or farms participating. The results will be utilised on a regional scale.

Can any veterinary practice conduct a post-mortem?

This project is still in the pilot phase. There is only one veterinary practice per region that has had the training and been set up for the post-mortem project. The goal is for this project to expand and include more vets and regions in the coming seasons.

When can I expect to receive results?

The turnaround time is expected to be five working days but the results will be sent through to breeders as they become available. This means the EHV PCR should be back within the standard 48 working hours.

What is the best way to pack and transport a foetus?

All foetuses must be double bagged to prevent the potential spread of EHV. The foetus must be kept cold (4 - 10 degrees Celsius) but must not be frozen. Thick bags are strongly suggested as normal rubbish bags can tear and leak. It's recommended when transporting to use a bin or esky with ice both beneath and above the bagged foetus.