

Current Veterinary Clinical Trials

EQUINE RECURRENT UVEITIS IN APPALOOSA HORSES

■ Background

- Equine recurrent uveitis (ERU) is the leading cause of blindness in horses, marked by repeated episodes of inflammation of the uveal tract of the eye. Appaloosa horses, known best for their white coat spotting patterns (termed leopard complex or LP), are eight times more likely than any other breed to develop this disease and four times more likely to go blind, suggesting genetics plays a major contributing role. However, little is known about the specific genetic factors involved. The objective of this study is to determine the genetic factors contributing to ERU in Appaloosa horses.

■ Participation Requirements

- Appaloosa horses with known pedigrees

■ Procedures

- Examination of the horse's eyes by a veterinary ophthalmologist
- Photography of the horse to document coat color and any abnormalities found in the eyes
- Collection of mane hair and blood samples will be utilized to examine the horses DNA
- Discussion of the horse's medical history
- Follow-up phone calls/emails if any questions arise

■ Owner Responsibilities

- Bringing the horse to the VMTH for initial assessment
- Covering any costs associated with injuries while participating in this trial and follow-up of the horse at the VMTH for assessment if needed

■ Benefits

- Results of this work may help to lower the incidence of this ocular disease in Appaloosas and other affected breeds.
- Information gained may help breeders to make informed mating decisions, and utilized by veterinarians to predict risk of developing disease for earlier diagnosis and treatment.



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

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