Background
• Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is one of the most common forms of cancer to affect the eye in horses, frequently occurring at the limbus, where the clear cornea meets the white of the eye, or on the nictitating membrane, also known as the third eyelid. This type of eye cancer affects Haflingers, Belgians, Percherons, Appaloosas, and Arabians among others. The objective of this study is to determine the role genetics plays in ocular squamous cell carcinoma in these breeds.

Participation Requirements
• Haflinger, Belgian, Percheron, Appaloosa, and Arabian Horses with confirmed ocular SCC (confirmed by pathology), or horses that have not been diagnosed with ocular SCC that are at least 13 years old
• Horses that are suspicious for ocular SCC are invited to participate, but confirmation would be required prior to inclusion in the study.

Procedures
• Discussion of the horse’s medical history and documentation on known pedigree information
• 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 blood from the jugular vein and collection of hair samples from the horse’s mane
• Follow up phone calls or emails may be necessary

Owner Responsibilities
• Covering any costs associated with injuries while participating in this trial and any costs associated with follow-up of your animal at the VMTH for assessment

Benefits
• The study will cover the costs associated with eye examination, blood collection, and mane pulling.
• Results from this study could reduce the incidence of this common eye cancer in several horse breeds as well as better predict the risk of developing disease for earlier diagnosis and treatment.
• This information may also help breeders make informed mating decisions.