Current Veterinary Clinical Trials

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECTS IN ARABIAN HORSES

- Background
  - Ventricular Septal Defects (VSDs) are the most common congenital heart defects in horses. They allow blood to shunt inappropriately from the left ventricle to the right ventricle via an opening in the ventricular septum. This blood recirculates through the lungs and left chambers, resulting in enlargement of these structures. Arabian horses are overrepresented in horses presenting for VSDs, and we are investigating the possibility of a genetic predisposition for this defect.

- Participation Requirements
  - Arabian horses or Arabian crosses that have a right sided systolic heart murmur, or a veterinary diagnosis of VSD.

- Procedures
  - Collection and submission of a blood sample of 3 ml blood sample in an EDTA purple top tube for DNA extraction by the cardiac genetics laboratory.

- Owner Responsibilities
  - Submission of blood sample (this can be done by the owner or referring veterinarian)
  - If your Arabian was diagnosed with a heart murmur but you are unsure whether it qualifies for the study, please contact us. In some cases, we may be able to review your horse’s medical records or even fund a cardiac examination for your horse.

- Benefits
  - While there may be no direct benefit to your horse, results from this study may determine if a genetic factor plays a role in the development of Ventricular Septal Defects in Arabian horses.
  - This finding would help with screening predisposed horses and hopefully guiding breeding management to avoid continuation of this defect in the Arabian horse.

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