

UPDATED 1st DECEMBER 2010 – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

HEALTH TESTS REQUIRED BEFORE A STALLION MAY ENTER THE STALLION CENTRE

EU directives require that all stallions entering centres where semen is collected for export must have certificates showing they are not suffering from the infections listed below. To satisfy these requirements, the appropriate tests, on samples taken **not more than 30 days** before the stallion enters the centre, must have been carried out **exactly as stipulated**. Samples must be sent to **DEFRA laboratories** which will refuse to process any that have not been submitted correctly. Allow at least 10 days for results to come through. **THESE TESTS MUST BE CARRIED OUT 100% ACCURATELY, OTHERWISE THE STALLION CANNOT ENTER THE CENTRE.**

Stallions must not have covered a mare within 30 days before entry to the centre.

Before a stallion enters the centre, certificates **issued by DEFRA laboratories** must be sent to West Kington Stallion Centre to show that the following diseases have been tested for with negative results in each case:

1. **EQUINE VIRAL ARTERITIS (EVA)** – Either:
 - a. **Non-vaccinated stallions:** Serum Neutralisation Test on a sample of whole blood taken within 30 days before entering the centre; or
 - b. **Vaccinated or other EVA positive stallions:** Virus isolation carried out on a sample of fresh semen within 180 days before entering the centre. (In some cases, proof of vaccination will suffice, but conditions laid down by DEFRA are very strict and many stallions do not meet the requirements. If in doubt, check with West Kington Stallion Centre).
2. **EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANAEMIA (EIA)**

Serum Neutralisation (Coggins) Test on a sample of whole blood taken within 30 days before entering the centre.
3. **CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS (CEM)**

Two sets* of culture swabs taken within 30 days before entering the centre from each of the following four locations: (a) prepuce, (b) fossa, including sinus, (c) urethra and (d) pre-ejaculatory fluid present after teasing. **In addition to microaerophilic culture, the swabs should be cultured aerobically to test for the presence of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.**

N.B. Sedation of stallions can inhibit the production of pre-ejaculatory fluid. If you require guidance on how to obtain this swab, please call Tessa Clarke, Stud Manager on 07774 161741.

*** New regulations require that two sets of swabs are taken exactly seven days apart.**

NOTES ON SAMPLES

- Tests to be taken at least 15 days after last covering a mare, but within 30 days of stallion entering the centre.
- Please use the relevant forms provided for submission to the Ministry Laboratories – see below.
- Please remember to use the registered name of the stallion on the samples and accompanying paperwork, together with the sample date.
- **Blood Samples:** 10 ml of whole blood for each test. Samples to be sent to Virology Department, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3NB.
- **Penile Swabs:** Swabs, in charcoal transport medium, sent to Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Rougham Hill, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 2RX, to arrive within 48 hours of sampling. **DEFRA require that swabs must be kept cool (but not frozen) during transit by inclusion of an ice pack, or similar, within the package.** To avoid postal delays, it is often advisable to send samples by Special Delivery.
- **Virus Isolation Test:** This test is very expensive - if the stallion is EVA vaccinated or tests positive for EVA, please contact Tessa Clarke at West Kington Stallion Centre for guidance before undertaking a virus isolation test.