**EQUINE PREGNANCY TESTS**

Whenever rectal palpation is not possible due to miniature or intractable horses or because of possible rectal lesions, a serological test for pregnancy is required. Several options are available:

**PMSG/eCG-Test:**
(PMSG = pregnant mare serum gonadotrophin; eCG = equine chorionic gonadotrophin) PMSG/eCG is produced between days 40 and 120 of pregnancy in the endometrial cups. However, the best period for its assessment is comprised between days 45 and 90 post ovulation. If abortion or fetal absorption occurs, the endometrial cups continue producing PMSG/eCG, thus possibly leading to false positive results. Therefore, a positive result should always be accompanied by an oestronsulfate test after the 100. day of pregnancy.

**Material:** 3 ml serum  
**Results:** in 8-10 days

**Oestronsulfate:**
Oestronsulfate is produced by an intact fetoplacental unit and a high concentration of this hormone is indicative of pregnancy and a good fetal viability. Oestronsulfate is produced and can be detected from day 40 of pregnancy, but the sensitivity of the test, as part of the pregnancy diagnostics, is higher at a later stage. Therefore, we recommend performing this test beginning on day 100 of pregnancy, as false negative results may be obtained if performed before. In addition, not all pregnant mares show high oestronsulfate levels 100 days after the last copulation / insemination. In case of inconclusive results, it is recommended to repeat the test after 2-4 weeks. A negative test result in a mare, that is proven to be pregnant for more than 120 days, may be indicative of compromise of the fetoplacental unit or fetal loss. A rectal examination and / or ultrasonography should be performed in these cases.

**Material:** 1 ml serum or 5 ml urine  
**Results:** in 3-7 days

Should you have further questions concerning the mare and her problems, please feel free to contact our specialists in microbiology, histopathology and equine medicine. They are more than happy to assist.
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Spec cPL® and Spec fPL™**

These two pancreatitis tests, for dogs and cats, cost exactly the same - only EUR 24.50*.

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**Barcodes**

Please place barcodes on every submission form (incl. rabies) and belonging tubes. Hereby we are 100% sure, who the sender is, and which samples belong to which animal. Barcodes are ordered, together with our other free supplies, using our “Veterinary Supplies Request Form”.

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**Scandinavian Diagnostik Tour 2009**

Mark your calendar! Speaker this spring is Gillian Gibson, VMD MRCVS DipACVIM and topics are Endocrinology and Utilizing in-house diagnostics - A case oriented approach.

**Göteborg, Sweden, 20. April.**

**Oslo, Norway, 23. April.**

**København, Denmark, 21. April.**

**Solna, Sweden, 24. April.**

To participate, please write to charlotte-timmol@idexx.com.

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**Overnight Courier Service**

As you probably heard already, the Finnish post has changed their internal regulations, thereby refusing to ship your biological samples per postal service abroad. Although our red shipment envelopes marked UN3373 are approved by EU, and therefore approved by Finland, we do offer you an alternative - which is even more reliable and much faster:

Our **special TNT overnight courier service** is available for most clinics in Finland. To use this service, please use the attached form to order our special pre-printed TNT shipment forms and boxes.

Then, when you have a sample for IDEXX Vet Med Lab, just book a pick-up directly from TNT-Finland at 0800 188800 or biomedical.fi@tnt.fi (stating the customer number listed on the shipment forms) and your sample will be picked up, transported to our lab overnight, and you will have most results the next day.

This service is available for you at just 11.90 euroa per pick-up - no matter how many samples you have for that pick-up!

If further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

*ex VAT.