



Animal Health Trust
the science behind animal welfare



Diagnostic Testing for Foal Immunodeficiency Syndrome (FIS) at the Animal Health Trust

Following a collaboration with scientists at the University of Liverpool, a diagnostic DNA test for FIS will be available from 1st February 2010 at the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket, UK (Registered charity no. 209642). DNA testing allows breeders to identify whether animals in their breeding stock are clear or carry the disease, and thereby make informed breeding decisions. The test can also be used to distinguish clear, carrier and affected foals; this can be particularly helpful in confirming that sick foals are suffering from FIS, or identifying them before they begin to show signs of disease. Foal samples will be 'fast-tracked', with results available 3 working days after receipt of sample. Adult pony results will be available within 30 days of receipt of sample.

The diagnostic test is performed on a hair sample pulled from either the mane or tail, and can be transported in the ordinary mail without cooling.

Members can submit hair samples for testing via either the Fell or Dales Pony Societies. Alternatively samples may be submitted by your vet – your vet can request sample bags by emailing FIStesting@aht.org.uk. For advice on sample submission please call Angie Stagg on 01638 555645. For further information please refer to the AHT website at http://www.aht.org.uk/genetics_tests.html#equine

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