

How can I participate?

To be enrolled in the study we first ask you to fill in a brief survey about your ophthalmology caseload, so that we have a general idea of the sort of cases you see. Then we will provide you with an EK kit that contains: 1 veterinary form, 1 questionnaire for the owner of the affected horse, 6 questionnaires for owners of unaffected horses (controls) willing to participate in the study and sampling material: 1 EDTA tube, 1 red-top tube, 1 cytobrush, 2 smear slides, 1 slide holder, 1 faecal pot. We will also ask to send some pictures of the affected eye(s) that will help with the diagnosis.

The study stands on 2 questionnaires, a clinical form and some samples. Once you have identified a potential case of EK and perform a full ophthalmology exam you have to:

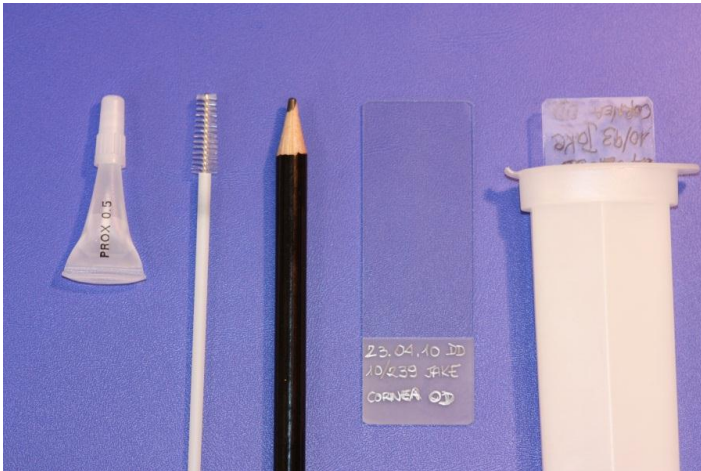
- Fill in the EK vet form after full examination of the horse
- Perform a corneal scrape and place the smears in the holder case provided: **confirmation of EK**
- Take 2 tubes of blood: 1 EDTA+ red-top tube: **basic haematology+ tapeworm serology**
- Take a faecal sample: **egg-count**
- Provide the owner of the horse with "Equine Eosinophilic keratitis survey" questionnaire
- Take some pictures of the eye/s and send them to: sonia.gonzalez-medina@aht.org.uk
- Provide the owners of your following 6 visits (that might be done in the next following days) with the "Equine Husbandry and Ocular Health control"
- Owner questionnaires will be supplied with pre-paid envelopes for returning to the AHT, so it **is not your duty to send them**. The participation of control owners is entirely voluntary, although it will be better for the study to have enough control data to contrast the information we get from the clinical cases. The owners of the cases have to send their questionnaire filled in as soon as they can; this is the only condition for free testing.

Results will be forwarded when available. Cytology results will be available in 24-48h except for weekends or bank holidays.

How do I perform a corneal scrape?



Animal Health Trust



- Sedate the horse
- Perform an auriculo-palpebral nerve block
- Apply some propacaine/ tetracaine hydrochloride 1% drops to the ocular surface
- Take a clean microscope slide and write the name of the animal and the eye affected (right or left) on the frosted end.

- Apply the cytobrush onto the area and scrape gently until obtaining an adequate sample. This is facilitated by gentle rolling the cytobrush on the affected cornea



- Slowly roll the cytobrush onto the microscopic slide in order to spread the collected material all over the slide surface
- Let the slide dry at room temperature for a couple of minutes. Fixation is not necessary if the slide will reach the laboratory within 48h.
- Put the slide into the appropriate slide box



Where shall I send the samples?

Include all the samples in the envelope addressed to "AHT Diagnostic Services" and send them to us with the submission form.

Results will be sent as soon as they are available. Feel free to ring and/or email us for further discussion of the case. A follow-up form will be provided once the diagnosis is confirmed.