

Life Data Labs® Nutrition Program
Instructions for EQUINE Blood Sample Submission

Specimen Mailer Box Contents:

- **Non-frozen ice pack – place in freezer to be frozen solid prior to blood collection**
- 2 Forms: Equine Nutrition Consulting Form & Equine History of Conditions/Ailments Form
- 2 - **Royal blue top** vacutainer tubes (*Mineral free tube contains Potassium EDTA as an anticoagulant*)
- 2 - **Green top** vacutainer tubes (*used for blood hematology and chemistry - CBC*)
- Specimen Transport Bag w/Absorbent Mat Pouch
- Foil Thermal Bag
- Bubble wrap for content protection
- Pre-Paid UPS Return Shipping Label

Sample Instructions:

- Blood should be collected by the attending veterinarian.
- The blood sample collection is best performed on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday and shipped by UPS on the **same day of collection**. This ensures a fresh sample for our hematology and chemistry analysis.

IMPORTANT: Utilize a vacutainer holder and needle to collect the blood samples. **Do not collect blood in a syringe and transfer blood to the vacutainer (vial).** *Syringes are not mineral-free and therefore will contaminate the sample used for Trace Minerals testing.*

- 1) **Green top tubes** - Collect blood in the two green top tubes first as this helps to eliminate mineral contaminants from the needle and puncture site. Gently rock the tube immediately after blood collection to disperse the anticoagulants.
- 2) **Royal blue top tubes** - Collect blood samples immediately following sample collection of the green top tubes and gently rock the tube immediately after blood collection to disperse the anticoagulants. This sample is used for Trace Mineral testing.
- 3) Write an ID (*horse's name or ID number, etc.*) on the label of all blood-filled tubes.
- 4) Place the blood-filled tubes inside the pouches of the absorbent mat.
- 5) Place the absorbent mat with the tubes inside the Specimen Transport Bag.
- 6) Seal the Specimen Transport Bag being careful not to leave excess air within bag.
- 7) Place the sealed Specimen Transport Bag inside the foil thermal bag along with the frozen gel pack.
- 8) Seal the thermal bag and place in Specimen Mailer Box with bubble wrap on top for protection.
- 9) Place completed **Equine Nutrition Consulting Form** and 2-page **Equine History of Conditions/Ailments** form inside box
 - a. or fill out our online **Equine Nutrition Consulting Form** from your Smartphone, laptop or computer by clicking on the following link: <https://www.lifedatalabs.com/LDLWebApps/EquineConsult>.
 - b. or email to cservice@lifedatalabs.com
 - c. or mail to **Life Data Labs, Inc., ATTN: Scott Gravlee, DVM, CNS *PO Box 349 * Cherokee, AL 35616-0349**
- 10) Place enclosed pre-paid shipping label over the existing UPS shipping label and seal the box.
- 11) Ship the box back to Life Data Labs via UPS shipping.

About Life Data® Labs, Inc.

Life Data Labs, Inc. was founded in 1975 by Frank Gravlee, DVM, MS, CNS with the purpose of determining equine nutritional deficiencies by performing laboratory tests. Life Data Labs, Inc. evolved into an animal nutrition and healthcare product manufacturer. The company's data driven product development is based on an extensive database of blood test results. Life Data Labs' flagship product Farrier's Formula® has been a household name in the equine world for over three decades. Introduced in 1984, Farrier's Formula® was the first hoof supplement in the market and is the #1 recommended hoof supplement by farriers in the US (*Source: American Farriers Journal. Jan/Feb 2015. Page 87*).

Life Data Labs is interested in expanding the database to examine potential relationships between blood test parameters in the average healthy population of horses vs. horses with specific conditions such as obesity, insulin resistance, metabolic syndrome, Cushing's Disease, anhidrosis, laminitis and other hoof related problems. Life Data Labs has in-house lab equipment to analyze whole blood samples for mineral content (ICP-MS). Many of the minerals analyzed are in low ppb concentrations in the blood, and most have no known normal values.

Life Data Labs will analyze whole blood for minerals utilizing mineral free royal blue top K2 EDTA and will also perform additional tests with blood collected in heparinized green top tubes. *During the research period, the blood testing at Life Data Labs is free of charge to the horse owner and veterinarian. The horse owner would be responsible for the veterinary fees associated with the blood collection.*

Since we would be in a data gathering phase you would not likely receive a report from us until sufficient data has been collected to hopefully make an assessment and recommendations. This process may take several months to a year.

The information derived from equine blood testing at Life Data Labs is to be utilized as a tool and is not intended to be used as a diagnosis or as a replacement of professional medical judgement.