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Attention Veterinarians: Piroplasmosis Test Chart Must Accompany Blood Specimen

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AUSTIN – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) adopted a rule requiring the use of a test chart for Piroplasmosis (Piro) testing of equine on June 23, 2011.

This is a reminder that a completed equine Piroplasmosis laboratory test chart (Form 10-07) must be submitted with the sample. Beginning, January 1, 2012, results of Piro tests will not be released until a completed test chart has been submitted to the lab.

The test chart must list the description of the equine to include the following: age, breed, color, sex, animal's name, and all distinctive markings (i.e., color patterns, brands, tattoos, scars, or blemishes), and any RFID numbers applied to the animal.

In lieu of the manual illustration, digital photographs clearly showing the horse from the left side, right side, and full face may be incorporated in the chart. All charts must list owner's name, address, the animal's home premise and county, the name and address of the authorized individual collecting the test sample, and laboratory and individual conducting the test. The Piroplasmosis test document shall list one horse only.

Both versions of the Piro test chart may be downloaded at
http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/equine/piro.html

Equine entering a racetrack facility must have a negative Piroplasmosis test (*Theileria equi*) within the past 12 months. A racetrack facility is grounds used to conduct organized horse racing.

A negative Piro test may also be required for horses moving interstate or internationally. Check with the state or country of destination before moving equine.

<http://www.usaha.org/Portals/6/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf>

Equine piroplasmosis is a tick-borne protozoal infection of horses. At least two species of ticks present, *Amblyomma cajennense* (Cayenne tick) and *Dermacentor variabilis* (American dog tick,) have proven capable of transmitting the blood parasite. The disease may also be spread

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between horses by unsafe animal husbandry practices such as sharing needles or equipment that is contaminated with blood. While Piro can be a fatal disease, many horses may display vague signs of illness, such as fever, loss of appetite or jaundice.

For more information regarding the new Piro test chart requirement, call your regional TAHC office or visit http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/equine/piro.html .

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