



## Equine Abortion

1. If available, examine placenta and umbilical cord
  - a. Lay placenta out in the shape of an “F” with the chorionic villous surface on the outside (allantoic surface on the inside). If the horns are both very short and the body is large, then a uterine body pregnancy is suspect; this is rare and will cause late term abortion.
  - b. Examine the entire chorioallantoic sac for areas of shortened villi, areas devoid of villi or other abnormalities. Twinning will result in a large area devoid of villi that was against the other placenta.
  - c. Examine the cervical star and tips of the horns to ensure that these regions are present and appear normal. The placenta should be torn through or near the cervical star at delivery. If the placenta is torn through the body, then premature separation should be suspect. If premature separation starts at the tips of the horns those regions will be brown and dry.
  - d. Examine the amniotic membrane. It should be thin enough to read a newspaper through.
  - e. Examine the umbilical cord. Measure the cord (normal cord length in the 7-10 month gestation Thoroughbred is less than 80cm.). There should be no more than 7 twists (there are two vessels, thus 14) in the cord. More twists than that in association with localized swelling and discoloration are suggestive of vascular obstruction. Fluid filled sacs in the amniotic part of the cord are likely to be local distensions of the urachus which is not compatible with life.
2. Examine the foal and record any external abnormalities.
3. Measure and record crown-rump length as well as presence or absence of hair on the mane, eyelids, and coronary bands for use in estimation of gestational age.
4. Open the abdomen and chest. With a sterile syringe and needle aspirate heart blood or thoracic fluid. Place in sterile tube and label. Save for possible serology.
5. With a sterile syringe and needle aspirate stomach contents and place in a sterile tube and label.
6. Collect remaining samples and record any abnormalities.

Please submit the following samples for diagnostic testing along with a general submission form. Label all samples. If no specific tests are requested the pathologist will run appropriate tests at their discretion.

You will need:

- 1) container with formalin
- 2) sterile tubes, syringes, and needles
- 3) whirl pak bags for fresh tissue

Fresh Tissues (place in clean bags, i.e. whirlpaks)

- 1) lung
- 2) liver
- 3) kidney
- 4) lymph node
- 5) spleen
- 6) heart
- 7) thymus
- 8) placenta-2-3 sections (place in separate bag)

**Fresh Fluids (place in individual sterile tubes)**

- 1) stomach contents
- 2) thoracic fluid

**Fixed Tissues (place in formalin)**

- 1) placenta (4-5 sections)
- 2) thyroid gland
- 3) heart
- 4) lung
- 5) spleen
- 6) liver
- 7) kidney
- 8) adrenal glands
- 9) brain
- 10) skeletal muscle (3 sections)

**Routine Tests**

<b>Test</b>
Aerobic culture
Histopathology
Virus Isolation

**Additional Available Tests**

<b>Test</b>
Leptospira PCR
Serology (EHV-1, EVA)