

HorseHealth and Biobank Initiative

Consent form for animal owners

You have agreed to submit a sample from your horse to the **HorseHealth and Biobank Initiative (HHBI)**. Please read this form carefully.

HHBI Coordinator: Dr. Melissa Cox, CAG GmbH – Center for Animal Genetics, +49 7071 565850, melissa.cox@centerforanimalgenetics.de

Purpose and Objective of the HHBI: The goal is to create a Biobank of hair from horses (for DNA extraction) and health information, from a wide variety of horses and ponies. These samples will be used by scientists to investigate the genetic basis of diseases and complex traits in horses (for example, Summer Eczema/Insect Bite Hypersensitivity).

Detailed health data will allow researchers to investigate the incidence of illnesses and of traits of interest in horses and ponies in Europe. It is important to have samples and data from many horses, both healthy and ill. This will give researchers a realistic picture of the health situation of horse breed populations. For example, questionnaire analysis will allow a determination of what diseases/conditions/traits are under- or over-represented in certain populations/breeds and the effect of factors in a horse's environment that influence a trait or illness. This knowledge can then be used to help improve horse health and welfare.

Description of the Procedures: The owner will complete the online health questionnaire to the best of their knowledge. This is estimated to take 5-10 minutes. The owner will then collect a hair sample (30-40 hairs from the mane or tail) from their horse, and send it by mail.

Potential Risks and Discomforts: Animal: The horse may feel mild discomfort for the few seconds when hair from the mane or tail is plucked. There are no other known risks. Owner: As with any interactions with a horse, it is possible to sustain injury, such as being kicked or bitten, while collecting the sample. The HHBI and CAG GmbH do not assume any liability for injuries sustained during sample collection.

Voluntary Participation: Participation is voluntary. You will not receive any monetary compensation for you and your animal's participation. Participation is free, and the cost of postage can be deferred to the Biobank (with the statement: "Porto zahlt Empfänger" on the shipping envelope).

Withdrawal of consent: Prior to sample submission, it is possible for you to revoke your participation consent, and have all submitted data deleted. There will be no change in your relationship with CAG GmbH if you choose to withdraw consent. After sample receipt at the Biobank, it is no longer possible to revoke your participation, because the sample will be de-identified and no longer associated with your name in the database.

Benefits: Although there is no direct benefit to your animal, scientific research on samples in the Biobank will benefit other horses in the future.

If you have any **questions or concerns** about the Biobank or this sample collection procedure, you may contact : Dr. Melissa Cox, CAG GmbH, Paul-Ehrlich-Str. 23, 72076 Tuebingen, Germany. melissa.cox@centerforanimalgenetics.de, +49 7071 565 44 850.

Consent to Participate: Please read the following statements to signify your agreement and sign below.

- I have read the consent form and I understand the consent form.
- I have read and understood the privacy policy accessible under (<http://www.centerforanimalgenetics.com/privacy-protection/>) and I agree to the electronic storage of my personal data.
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions and my/our questions have been answered.
- I agree that the data collected under the HHBI, including the identity and health of my horse, may be stored in paper form and on electronic data carriers at CAG GmbH. The collected data and associated horse hair sample will be analyzed for the purpose of scientific research.

Place and date

Owner signature

Owner name (Capital letters)