

# Lameness: Is a joint infection to blame?



There are many possible causes of equine lameness – from foreign objects in the hoof to undetected infection. Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) offers horse owners and practitioners a slate of validated tests to help diagnose the cause of the lameness.

Joint fluid analysis may be helpful to differentiate a septic joint from traumatic injury or degenerative joint disease. Joint fluid analysis includes total nucleated cell count, red cell count, mucin clot, total protein and specific gravity. A clinical pathologist will evaluate slides from the fluid to determine a cell differential and the presence of bacteria. All of this information can be used along with clinical signs and other tests to obtain a diagnosis.

**Cytology body fluid analysis** – This test utilizes at least 0.5mL fluid submitted in an EDTA tube and air-dried slides.

*PRICE:* \$35.00, with a \$6.00 accession fee.

*TURNAROUND:* The test is performed Monday-Friday in Amarillo and College Station, with results in 1-2 business days.

**Aerobic & Anaerobic Culture - Companion**

This test cultures for the isolation and ID of a wide variety of bacterial pathogens.

*PRICE:* \$23.00, with a \$6.00 accession fee.

*TURNAROUND:* The test is performed Monday-Saturday in Amarillo and College Station, with results in 2-7 business days.