

# Piroplasmosis

*Threatening equine marketability, event eligibility and movement.*



Protecting Animal and Human  
Health through Diagnostics

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Accredited by the American Association of  
Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

Equine piroplasmosis is a tick-borne protozoal disease affecting horses, mules, donkeys, and zebra. Similar to cattle fever, ticks carrying *Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi* are responsible for causing this disease. Infected animals may remain carriers of these parasites for long periods and act as sources of infection for ticks, which then act as vectors. Such a disease hinders the movement of horses, stopping the equine industry in its tracks: no horse sales, movement across state lines or breeding.

Horses in any state where ticks are found are susceptible to piroplasmosis. This bloodborne disease is also spread animal-to-animal through contaminated needles.

Clinical signs of an infected animal include:

- Fever
- Depression
- Weakness; immobility and reluctance to move
- Rapid, shallow breathing
- Swelling and/or jaundice
- Bloody urine
- Cessation of bowel and/or bladder function

#### About TVMDL:

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory protects animal and human health through diagnostics.

An agency of the Texas A&M University System, TVMDL comprises two full-service laboratories, in College Station and Amarillo, and two poultry laboratories, in Center and Gonzales.

TVMDL is among 12 core laboratories in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, a group of state and regional laboratories designed to provide a nationwide surge testing, response, and recovery capacity in the event of an animal disease outbreak.

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In 2009, the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory detected the emergence of equine piroplasmiasis in the United States. In total, more than 300 horses in 10 states tested positive for piroplasmiasis during the initial outbreak, resulting in several states and Canada imposing restrictions on movement of horses.

Now, top horse events like the American Quarter Horse Association World Championship Show require a negative equine piroplasmiasis test before admission to the show grounds.

TVMDL has USDA approval to perform equine piroplasmiasis testing for inter- and intrastate movement at both the College Station and Amarillo, Texas, laboratories. The Canadian government approved TVMDL as a facility for clinically normal animal testing for export to Canada. No other testing facility in Texas has approval to run the equine piroplasmiasis test, and only 12 test facilities are USDA-approved throughout the country.

TVMDL has the state-of-the-art testing facilities to handle your equine piroplasmiasis testing.

Competitively priced serum testing is offered for both pathogens.

- *Theileria equi* & *Babesia caballi* (cELISA) \$34.00, with a \$6.00 accession fee.
- *Theileria equi* (cELISA) \$17.00, with a \$6.00 accession fee.
- *Babesia caballi* (cELISA) \$17.00, with a \$6.00 accession fee.

#### TVMDL Facts:

- Receive more than 500 submissions each business day from around the world, totaling more than 925,000 tests a year.
- State-of-the-art, rapid, accurate and cost-effective diagnostic services.
- TVMDL is one of 12 core labs in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.
- TVMDL is accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

#### Full-Service Lab:

- Questions? Talk directly to the TVMDL diagnosticians who conduct your tests.
- Need a consultation with an expert? Our staff includes more than 30 professionals who hold a DVM, a PhD, or both. Of these 16 are board-certified in their specialties.
- Get online access to your diagnostic records when you need them through our secure web site.

Visit [tvmdl.tamu.edu](http://tvmdl.tamu.edu) for more information.