

Equine Panels:

Using diagnostics to determine the cause of diarrhea

Diarrhea in horses is caused by various pathogens and affects all age classes. The cause can be infectious or noninfectious, and can be acute or chronic (has occurred for at least 1 month) in nature. Certain pathogens such as Salmonella may affect all age classes, but more commonly causes diarrhea in adult horses. Whereas rotavirus more commonly affects foals and *Lawsonia intracellularis* is more often seen in weanlings/yearlings.

Determining the etiologic agent of diarrhea, especially in chronic cases, can be frustrating. Using a problem-based diagnostic panel may assist the veterinarian in reaching an accurate diagnosis. While the treatment of diarrhea may be similar regardless of cause there are benefits in identifying the pathogen involved. Knowing the causative pathogen can assist the veterinarian in fine tuning specific treatments, implementing targeted biosecurity measures on the farm and, therefore, more effectively managing spread of the disease.

TVMDL has compiled age-based equine diarrhea panels to assist with diagnosis. Each panel targets the most common causes of diarrhea in the particular age class. The practitioner still has the ability to add or delete tests as indicated by the clinical presentation of their patient.

Foal up to 4 months of age:

- Salmonella (culture* / PCR)
- Clostridium difficile toxin A&B (ELISA)
- Clostridium perfringens enterotoxin A (culture* with PCR toxin identification)
- Equine rotavirus/coronavirus by electron microscopy (EM)

PRICE: \$139 with a \$6.00 accession fee

Weanling to yearling:

- *Lawsonia intracellularis* (PCR)
- Salmonella (culture* / PCR)
- Clostridium difficile toxin A&B (ELISA)
- Clostridium perfringens enterotoxin A (culture* with PCR toxin identification)
- Fecal egg per gram count (McMaster's)
- Equine coronavirus (EM)

PRICE: \$151 with a \$6.00 accession fee

Adult:

- Salmonella (culture* / PCR)
- Clostridium difficile toxin A&B (ELISA)
- Clostridium perfringens enterotoxin A (culture* with PCR toxin identification)

PRICE: \$139 with a \$6.00 accession fee

For diagnostic questions or more information on test selection, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu.

** Aerobic / anaerobic culture with susceptibility testing is included in each panel.*