

## Consent form for owners/ stud management

**Title of study:** Investigation of blood ionised calcium concentrations in Thoroughbred broodmares with retained foetal membranes (retained placenta).

**Study organisers:** Sarah Ross, Ursula Fogarty and Vivienne Duggan

**Purpose of the study:** Retention of the foetal membranes (RFM) is the most common problem in the foaling mare, affecting an estimated 10-12% of all broodmares, but little is known about the risk factors for this condition. Alterations in serum mineral levels, in particular, calcium, are associated with decreased contraction of the uterus and may contribute to failure to pass the foetal membranes after foaling. Evaluation of the active component of calcium (ionised calcium) in the blood of broodmares with and without RFM has not been performed to date.

**What is involved:** Mares will be monitored post foaling and classified into one of two groups. Mares which will enter the control group are those in which the placenta is passed in a time equal to or less than 4 hours. Mares which will enter the RFM group are those in which the placenta is passed in a time period greater than 4 hours. Blood samples will be taken by your usual Veterinary Surgeon from mares during routine clinical work including post foaling checks. From these samples blood mineral concentrations (including ionised calcium) will be measured and compared between groups.

**Information gathered:** Alongside the blood sample we will require some information on the animal gathered on a submission form. This will include the following:

- Age of the mare in years
- Number of previous pregnancies
- Previous history of RFM (yes or no)
- Category for this foaling – RFM (fetal membranes retained for > 4 hours, please state number of hours) or healthy control (fetal membranes passed within or less than 4 hours, please state number of hours or minutes)
- If placenta passed already or visible which surface was uppermost or facing to the outside? (The darker red chorionic surface or lighter white allantoic surface)
- Hours since foaling at time of blood sample

All animals and owners will remain anonymous. Mares from stud farms which submit multiple samples will be coded numerically for reference.

**If you are happy for a blood sample to be used for the purpose stated above, please sign and date below.** Any questions can be directed to Sarah Ross at sarahross60@hotmail.com.

Name ..... Date .....

