Comparison of seroprevalence of anti-{	extit{Borrelia burgdorferi}} (Lyme disease) antibodies in horses with unexplained multiple limb lameness or stiffness and sound horses

Purpose

To determine if a potential relationship exists between Lyme disease infection and multiple limb lameness/stiffness in horses.

Background

Some of the clinical signs that are most often attributed to equine Lyme disease include stiffness or lameness in more than one limb. No specific research has been conducted to date to compare the seroprevalence of Lyme disease in horses suffering from multiple limb lameness or stiffness and normal horses.

Eligibility

For this study, we are seeking 50 client-owned horses in each of two categories (100 horses total):

- Category 1: 50 horses presenting for unexplained multiple limb lameness or stiffness
- Category 2: 50 sound horses presenting for reasons other than musculoskeletal conditions

Exclusion Criteria

- Horses will be excluded from Category 2 if they have been diagnosed with a musculoskeletal condition

Study Design

Vaccination history will be established and a questionnaire regarding management practices will be obtained on each case. Ten milliliters of blood will be collected and 2 milliliters of isolated serum (a component of blood) will be frozen at -20°C. At the end of sample collection period, the equine sera will be sent to the Animal Health Diagnostic Center of Cornell University for analysis. Each horse's blood will be assessed using a test called the equine Lyme multiplex assay to refute or confirm Lyme disease infection and to identify the stage of infection or vaccination status.

Compensation

Study pays the cost of blood draw and sera analysis.

Contact

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PLEASE NOTE: THIS STUDY TAKES PLACE AT THE EQUINE MEDICAL CENTER IN LEESBURG, VA

If your query is urgent, please call the Equine Medical Center (703) 771-6800 and ask for the veterinarian on duty.