

## **Statement of the Holsteiner Verband-North American Breeding District on Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome Testing in Breeding Stallions**

The genetic condition of Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome (WFFS) has been recently highlighted as an issue of economic concern within the warmblood breeding industry. The Holsteiner Verband has announced a new policy that the WFFS carrier status of all stallions actively breeding in the registry must be published.

Genetic testing for WFFS carrier status is available at two different laboratories, and it is recommended that owners utilize the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at UC-Davis for the testing. The UC-Davis Laboratory has been conducting DNA testing for the North American Breeding District, in addition to other warmblood registries, and it is offering these various registries a price reduction for the breeding stock (it is unnecessary to test non-breeding stock) of current association members. UC-Davis is able to conduct this test on genetic samples that they already have in their records, thus, if your Holsteiner studbook mare or stallion has DNA on file with the UC-Davis Laboratory, no further samples are necessary for WFFS screening.

Owners will simply need to pay the fee required to UC-Davis to create the status report for a stallion or mare. The reduced fee offered by UC-Davis is only for current members of the Holsteiner Verband and their horses of record, thus membership and ownership will need to be verified through the North American Breeding District office in California. Your first step, should you desire to have your horses screened, is to contact the office.

If your Holsteiner foal has not yet been DNA tested, the WFFS screening test can be done when you submit the foal's DNA during the registration process, should you request it. Should you not wish to go through the office for the price reduction, please contact UC-Davis Laboratory or another participating lab directly.