

WHO WE ARE

The Comparative Genetics Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine is one of the most productive clinical veterinary medical research teams in the country.

Our team is comprised of PhD trained, board-certified large animal surgeons, animal geneticists, and statisticians, creating a unique team of dedicated world-renowned scientists.

Teaching the next generation of veterinary clinician scientists is a priority. Our lab is committed to graduate student training and provides research experience and guidance for veterinary medical students.

Learn more about our lab

vetmed.wisc.edu/lab/corl/genetic-studies

HELP ANIMALS WITH A GIFT



Please consider making a donation to support this important work.

Your gift will be used to directly support DNA collection and analysis of genetic data.

How much does this study cost for each horse?

- DNA SNP Microarray: **\$200**
- Genome Sequencing: **\$1,000**
- Breed-Specific Reference Genome: **\$50,000**

Only client-owned animals, with informed owner consent, are used for these studies.

Together, we can make a difference.

To make a gift now, you can donate online at supportuw.org/give and select the "Comparative Genetics & Clinical Research Laboratory Fund" or complete and return the enclosed gift pledge form.

You can also send a check payable to "UW Foundation" with Fund #112840014 in the memo line to: Giving, UW School of Veterinary Medicine, 2015 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706.

For gifts more than \$1,000, or other questions, please contact:

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THE GENETIC BASIS OF DEGENERATIVE SUSPENSORY LIGAMENT DESMITIS



COMPARATIVE GENETICS LABORATORY



School of
Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

OUR CONTRIBUTIONS

The work we do in the Comparative Genetics Laboratory leads to a better understanding of diseases that affect companion animals.

Understanding the genetics and progression of DSLD are critical steps toward the development of a genetic screening test for disease risk and ultimately a new drug treatment to help prevent or slow disease development.

Review of pedigrees from affected and unaffected horses indicates that DSLD is a genetic disease. Our work aims to discover the gene or genes that cause the disease.



EQUINE DSLD

Find the Cause. Find the Cure.

At the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, our team of boarded large animal surgeons and genetics experts are working hard to understand what causes degenerative suspensory ligament desmitis (DSLSD) and how the disease affects the suspensory ligament and other supporting structures of the fetlock over time.

Anyone who has watched a horse suffer with DSLD knows that it is a painful, debilitating condition.

- Horses with DSLD usually present with a history of lameness, heat or swelling in the fetlocks, enlarged fetlocks, and gradual dropping of the fetlocks towards the ground.
- Lameness in both forelimbs, both hindlimbs, or all four limbs is often the first sign of DSLD. The etiology of DSLD is unclear. Onset is often subtle and may or may not be associated with injury.
- Many breeds are predisposed to DSLD including the Peruvian Horse, Paso Fino, Quarter Horse, and Warmblood.

OUR GOAL

No cure is available for horses affected with DSLD. Understanding the disease will help lead to developing a genetic test to screen at-risk horses. This will inform breeders and potential buyers of the disease risk of individual horses. With selective breeding and time, DSLD can be completely removed from the equine genome.

This research is expected to lead to a genetic test to identify horses at risk for DSLD and help guide patient management.

CONTACT US

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