



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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W. EDWIN KEE, JR.
SECRETARY

3 November 2009

Dear Equine Practitioner:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Poultry and Animal Health (PAH) Laboratory is planning to offer ELISA testing for Equine Infectious Anemia. The fee for this diagnostic test is \$50.00 per blood sample. Beginning November 17, 2009, the ELISA test will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday each week, excluding State holidays. Samples which are dropped off at the PAH Laboratory by 9:00 A.M. will be processed that morning, with results being available by 12 noon the same day. Any samples dropped off after 9:00 AM on Tuesday or Thursday will be held in storage and tested on the next Tuesday or Thursday, excluding State holidays. There will be no exceptions to the 9:00 AM cut-off rule, and we thank you in advance for your cooperation.

The AGID test will continue to be run on the usual schedule, at the cost of \$10 per sample.

Veterinarians, please make a note on your Coggins paperwork if you authorize the horse owner(s) to pick up or receive a fax from DDA with results of the ELISA. Without authorization, we will not release results directly to the owner. The false positive rate for the ELISA is low (<1.0%), but positives may occur more frequently than we have previously experienced with the AGID. We would like you to be aware that any horse testing positive to the ELISA will be placed under a **hold order** until the blood sample can be tested with the AGID, which takes 24 hours for results. **A hold order means that the horse in question may not be moved off the premises, commingled with other horses, or participate in a race until it is cleared with a negative AGID result.**

Should you have any questions, please call the Department of Agriculture at 302-698-4500 and ask for Kelly Curtis or Dr. Hirst. Thank you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather L. Hirst".

Heather L Hirst, DVM MS
State Veterinarian