

Test Barn Procedures and Practices

Test Barn oversight

The Official veterinarian (ODVM) has broad oversight and supervision on the operation of the Test Barn including but not limited to the collection, handling, and safeguarding of all specimens

- WAC 260-24-550
- WAC 260-70-600

1. Test Barn Security and Access

- Only currently WHRC licensed individuals with a valid reason for being in the Test Barn may enter and may be required to display their licenses.
- When accompanying a horse no more than three licensees will be permitted to enter the Test Barn unless granted permission by the ODVM. Under certain circumstances the number of licensees accompanying a horse may be reduced by the ODVM.
- During non race days access gates to the Test Barn are locked, and unlocked on race days.

2. Test Barn Personnel

- The Test Barn Secretary (TBS) assists the ODVM in oversight of the Test Barn.
- Veterinary Assistants (VA) are assigned to a horse either at the finish line or after the horse enters the Test Barn, and maintain continuous observation of the horse until samples are collected.
- Urine samples are collected by a VA, blood samples are collected by an ODVM or a Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT) licensed by both the Washington State Board of Veterinary Governor's and the WHRC.

3. Claimed Horses

Claimed horses must be handled by representatives of the trainer listed on the race program. Representatives of the trainer claiming the horse may assist in bathing the horse, but are prohibited from handling the horse until all samples are collected.

4. Samples Collection

Sample and 'split sample' collection is performed, stored and shipped under provisions and direction of:

- WAC 260-24-550
- WAC 260-70-590
- WAC 260-70-600
- WAC 260-70-610.

A. Horse Identification

- Horses are identified by lip tattoo or microchip by the VA prior to collection of urine samples and again by the ODVM or CVT before blood collection.
- Prior to sealing of samples, the name of the horse and its tattoo are corroborated with the lab submission card.

B. Urine Samples

When a horse is ready to urinate, which ranges from approximately 10 to more than 60 minutes, they are taken to a stall by the horse's attendant for urine collection by the VA. If insufficient urine volume is obtained the trainer or assistant trainer may elect to proceed without a split sample, or request the administration of furosemide. If blood collection is to occur, the VA waits by the stall with urine sample until blood collection is completed. If blood collection is not performed at this time the VA proceeds as described in the section **Sample Documentation and Processing** below.

C. Blood Samples

The ODVM or CVT collect blood samples as determined by a ODVM per WAC 260-70-590, WAC 260-70-600. Blood collection is done after the horse urinates or following arrival into the Test Barn at a time determined by the ODVM. Following collection of blood sample, the ODVM (or CVT) proceeds as described in the section **Sample Documentation and Processing** below.

D. Hair Samples

Hair will be collected by ODVM, CVT, TBS, or VA by cutting the mane with scissors as close to the skin as possible. A pencil width lock of hair is collected and secured with the root end of the hair identified. Hair samples will be stored in a locked dark, dry environment at room temperature and away from direct sunlight. If the length of the mane is less than four and one-half inches in length, hair may be taken from the tail. Following collection of hair sample, the ODVM (or CVT) proceeds as described in the section **Sample Documentation and Processing** below

E. TCO₂ Samples

- TCO₂ blood samples are collected in the receiving barn before a race.
- Following identification of the horse by the WHRC Identifier, the ODVM or CVT collects the sample blood into vacuum blood tubes.
- A sample number sticker from the Sample Submission Card is affixed to each blood tube, and the tube is sealed with evidence tape.
- The horse's handler or trainer representative signs the sample card and initials sealing tape.
- After collection, the samples are brought to the Test Barn office, placed in centrifuge or locked refrigerator for approximately 30 minutes then centrifuged.

F. Injured horses

If a horse is injured, as circumstances permit, blood may be collected on the track by the ODVM, or at the trainer's barn by a CVT or ODVM.. If a trainer representative is present they will initial evidence tape

and sign sample card. If a trainer representative is unavailable, another witness if present, (assistant starter or other association employee), may sign the sample card.

5. Sample Documentation and Processing

A. Samples Room

- Licensees are permitted into Samples Room and Test Barn Office only if WHRC Test Barn personnel are present. Food or beverages are prohibited from the Samples Room. Alcohol and tobacco are prohibited in the entire Test Barn enclosure at all times
- When an unsealed sample is brought into the Samples Room, all other samples are prohibited excepting samples in refrigerators or freezers.
- Sample numbers from the lab sample submission card are affixed to all samples and sealed with evidence tape.
- The trainer's representative initials the sample and signs the sample submission cards by both urine and blood sample witness lines.
- The lab submission card is signed by the VA for urine samples, and ODVM (or CVT) for blood samples, recording the time of sealing.

B. Urine samples

- In the Samples room urine is divided into primary and 'split sample' containers in the presence of a trainer's representative.
- Samples are sealed with evidence tape and clear packing tape.
- Both sealed samples are stored in freezer until shipment when split samples are stored as described in "***Split Samples***" section below.

C. Blood samples

Sealed and initialed blood tubes are separated into primary and 'split sample' in the Samples room in the presence of a trainer's representative. Sealed blood samples must sit for approximately 30 minutes prior to centrifugation for maximum serum yield. Blood samples are placed into centrifuge or if centrifuge space is unavailable, placed in a locked refrigerator during this waiting period. Following this waiting period blood samples are centrifuged and placed in locked refrigerator. Sealed blood samples are stored in refrigerator until shipment to laboratory and split samples are stored as described in "***Split Samples***" section below.

D. Hair samples

Samples are divided into primary and 'split sample' in the Samples room in the presence of a trainer's representative. Samples are wrapped in foil or paper, put into zip lock bag and sealed with evidence tape REFER TO SIGNING AND INITIALING SPECIMEN. Collection of the sample will comply with directives and procedures as provided by the primary testing laboratory which are available upon request.

E. Split Samples

On the day of shipment to lab of primary samples, split urine are transferred to the split sample freezer and blood samples to split sample refrigerator. The transfer is recorded in the "split sample log" and stored until samples results are cleared.

6. Sample shipment

Preparing blood and urine samples for transport to the airport takes place on the last racing day of the week with modifications according to lab holiday schedules. Samples are shipped with icepacks in a shipping cooler-container, sealed with a tamper proof numbered evidence seal, padlocked and transported to the airport by a WHRC employee.

7. Medications

A. DEA Schedule 2 controlled substances

Euthanasia solution is stored in a double locked steel box. During race days when an ODVM is on the track, euthanasia solution is stored in the ODVM's emergency box. Per DEA regulation, all uses of Schedule 2 controlled substances are recorded in a controlled substances log. During non race days both emergency boxes are locked in the storage cabinet. Only ODVM's and the TBS have access to the keys to the double locked steel box and locked storage cabinet.

B. Furosemide

Furosemide is stored in an unlocked cabinet in the test barn. Access to this cabinet is restricted to ODVM, CVT's, and the TBS. Additional furosemide is stored in a storage cabinet which is locked when not under supervision by the ODVM, CVT, or the TBS.

- **FUROSEMIDE ADMINISTRATION**

Upon request of a trainer and approval by the ODVM, furosemide may be administered to assist urine sample collection. Following blood collection, furosemide is administered by the ODVM or CVT via intravenous injection of 2 cc into the jugular vein.

C. Non Schedule 2 medications

Emergency medications are stored in a storage cabinet in the ODVM's office under the supervision of the ODVM, CVT, or TBS, and locked when unsupervised.