

The VDS Scheme

The VDS strongly advises that a blood sample is taken from a horse at the time of a pre-purchase examination, including limited two-stage examinations.

Samples submitted to the VDS Scheme must be collected using the approved kit, available from your veterinary wholesaler.

- The VDS has an arrangement with LGC to store samples for 6 months, a service for which VDS members are not charged.
- Samples may be analysed immediately if so wished, or at any time during the storage period.
- Analysis requested by the VDS (usually as part of the investigation of a claim) will be at the society's expense.
- A VDS member may also request the analysis of a sample submitted by his or her practice, or may request the extended storage of a sample, by contacting LGC direct. In either case, LGC will send the invoice to the VDS member for payment. Where such costs are to be passed onto a client, it is sensible to have gained their consent to such costs in advance.
- Price lists and protocols are available from LGC (see over).

Sampling

- The seller's or the selling agent's permission to take a blood sample should be sought. When the enclosed (self-duplicating) submission form is completed, this permission should be recorded by having the declaration signed by the seller or selling agent. If an agent is signing on behalf of the seller, the seller's details should be recorded on the back of page 2 including a note of the relationship between seller and agent (e.g. livery stable proprietor).
- Suitable precautions should be taken to minimise the risk of cross-contamination with medications when handling the horse or taking the sample.
- There is no legal requirement to supply the seller with a sample of blood. Should one be requested, you may supply it. You should advise the seller to consult his own veterinary surgeon regarding the appropriate handling and storage of the sample but most labs will accept 10ml heparinised blood for this purpose, to which you should affix a plain label bearing the horse's name, date and your signature. The blood tubes supplied in the VDS kits are NOT suitable for storing blood at the practice.

The Paperwork

Having obtained the blood sample, sign and date all three bar code labels and affix to:

- The blood TUBE (lengthways, to allow scanning)
 - The WHITE page of the submission form
 - The PINK page of the submission form
- Complete all fields on page 1 in **ball point pen** ensuring the information and signatures have copied onto all following pages.
 - Samples are identified by means of their barcode only. Samples submitted without a barcode will be returned.
 - Write the practice address clearly, to include the POSTCODE.
 - If no medication has been used/given please state 'NONE', although A SIGNATURE IS STILL REQUIRED. The seller/agent must tick the data processing consent box.
 - Sample will be stored UNLESS 'immediate screening' box is ticked. There is an additional tick box to request analysis for bisphosphonate if required.
 - Seal the labelled blood tube in the crush-proof container, before placing the container in the pre-paid envelope, along with the WHITE copy of the submission form. Post to LGC without delay. It is advisable to obtain a proof of posting.
 - ENCLOSE ONLY ONE VACUTAINER PER POSTING BAG.
 - NEEDLES must NEVER be sent to LGC.

Submission Form

- Place the WHITE copy in the pre-paid envelope
- Retain the PINK copy for your records.
- Give the GREEN copy to the seller/owner
- Give the YELLOW copy to the prospective purchaser



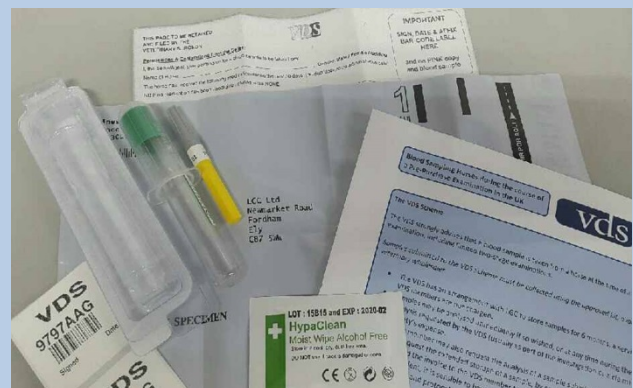
Contact

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