

## **Life Data Labs, Inc. Nutrition Program**

Life Data Labs, Inc. was founded in 1975 by Frank Gravlee, DVM, MS, CNS with the purpose of determining equine nutritional deficiencies by performing laboratory tests. Life Data Labs, Inc. evolved into an animal nutrition and healthcare product manufacturer. The company's data driven product development is based on an extensive database of blood test results. Life Data Labs' flagship product Farrier's Formula® has been a household name in the equine world for over three decades. Introduced in 1984, Farrier's Formula® was the first hoof supplement in the market and is the #1 recommended hoof supplement by farriers in the US (Source: American Farriers Journal. Jan/Feb 2015. Page 87).

Life Data® is interested in expanding the database to examine potential relationships between blood test parameters in the average healthy population of horses vs. horses with specific conditions such as obesity, insulin resistance, metabolic syndrome, and Cushings Disease. Life Data Labs has invested in equipment to analyze whole blood samples, including equipment to measure trace mineral content. Many of the minerals analyzed are in low ppb concentrations in the blood, and most have no known normal values.

The research program is designed to investigate the relationship between specific conditions of horses and the significance that nutrition may play a role in the health or prevention of these conditions. The in-house laboratory of Life Data® will analyze whole blood for blood chemistries and trace minerals utilizing a blood specimen collected by the attending veterinarian. Royal Blue Top mineral-free are located within a Specimen Mailer Kit provided free of charge by Life Data®. These blood specimens are mailed back to Life Data® with the Specimen Mailer Box and enclosed pre-paid shipping return label. Blood samples collected that are not immediately utilized will be frozen in a nitrogen freezer for potential future testing. During the research period, the blood testing at Life Data® is free of charge to the horse owner and veterinarian. The horse owner would be responsible for any veterinary fees associated with the blood collection.

The participating farriers, veterinarians and horse owners will be apprised of the research results when available.

The information derived from equine blood testing at Life Data® is to be utilized as a tool and is not intended to be used as a diagnosis or as a replacement of professional medical judgement.

### **Sample Instructions:**

The supplied kit contains royal blue top vacutainers that are necessary for analysis of elements in whole blood. These mineral free tubes contain Potassium EDTA as an anticoagulant.

- 1) Rotate the royal blue top tubes immediately after blood collection to disperse the anticoagulant.
- 2) Place the blood-filled vacutainers within the pouches of the absorbent mat located within the supplied Specimen Transport Bag.
- 3) Seal the bag being careful not to leave excess air within bag.
- 4) Place the sealed specimen transport bag in the foil thermal bag along with the ice pack (if available in a frozen or semi-frozen state).
- 5) Seal the thermal bag and place in Specimen Mailer Box.
- 6) Place completed Equine Nutrition Consulting Form in box (or email to [cservice@lifedatalabs.com](mailto:cservice@lifedatalabs.com)) or mail to Life Data Labs, Inc., ATTN Dr. Scott Gravlee, PO Box 349, Cherokee, AL 35616-3409).
- 7) Place enclosed pre-paid shipping label over the existing UPS shipping label and seal the box.
- 8) Ship the box to Life Data Labs via UPS shipping.

**Life Data Labs, Inc.**  
**12290 Highway 72**  
**Cherokee, AL 35616-0349**  
**256-370-7555**  
[www.lifedatalabs.com](http://www.lifedatalabs.com)  
[cservice@lifedatalabs.com](mailto:cservice@lifedatalabs.com)