**Owner Consent: Genetic Investigation of Pigmentation Traits in Horses**

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**Purpose of Research**: Coat color is a trait of economic importance to horse breeders. Researchers at the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory, UC-Davis are investigating the genetics of horse coat colors and patterns that are not explained by known mutations. The goal of this project is to empower breeders with tools to make more informed mating decisions as well as to contribute to the knowledge base of pigment biology in mammals.

**Information for Participants:**

* Participation in this study involves providing a biological sample from the horse typically in the form of submission of blood or hair (mane or tail) sample to the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory. Hair sample submission is done similar to pulling the mane for show or submitting hair for parentage testing. About 50 hairs are required. This hair or blood will be used to isolate DNA for genetic studies or RNA for gene expression studies. Pulling a small amount of hair from the mane is generally well tolerated by horses.
* The sample will be used to isolate biological material for genetic studies related to pigmentation.
* For each horse sampled, high quality digital photographs and 5 generation pedigree information (if available) are needed.
* Follow up phone calls or emails may be necessary if any questions arise about the horse or the color phenotype.
* All data collected as part of participation in this study, including pedigree record, photographs, coat color phenotype or genetic testing results will be treated as confidential, such that no animal, owner, or breeder will be identified without permission from the party providing the sample. Data generated from the research may be used for scientific purposes including publication of results without identification of animals, owners or breeders.
* Participation is voluntary, and any participant has the right to withdraw from the study at any time.
* No risk of injury to person or horse is anticipated as a result of participating in this study. Any injury sustained during sample collection is the responsibility of the participant.
* The investigators named above may terminate participation at any time.
* There is no financial obligation on the part of participant or investigator associated with this study.

I have read this consent form and agree to participate.

Printed name, signature, and date

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