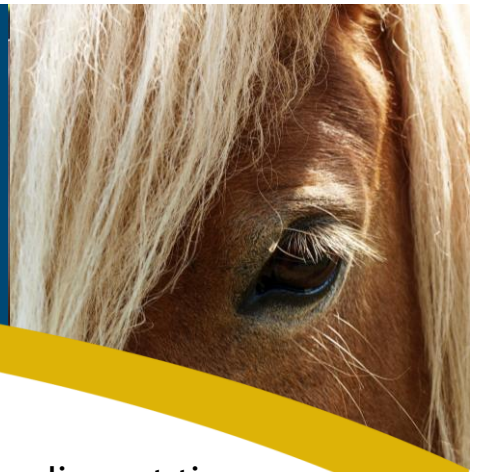


Ocular Squamous Cell Carcinoma



What is ocular squamous cell carcinoma?

- The most common eye cancer in horses
- Tumors may grow rapidly and can spread to invade adjacent tissues, causing visual impairment and destruction of the eye.
- UV light exposure is a predisposing factor for tumor development.
- A genetic risk factor has been identified in Haflingers and Belgians and a DNA test is available to identify at-risk horses from these breeds.
- Early detection of tumors may lead to a more successful outcome.

What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- Horses with white or pink eyelids are at greater risk of developing ocular squamous cell carcinoma. Horses with a chestnut-based coat color also appear to be at higher risk.
- Owners can use the DNA test to identify horses that have two copies of the risk variant and take precautions to protect them.
- Horses that are at higher risk should have routine eye exams, wear UV-protective fly masks, and be stabled during peak sunlight hours.

Signs

- Raised, rough lesions
- Thick yellow discharge from the eye
- Small, red areas that look like burns and bleed intermittently

Cause

- Inherited
- Identified genetic variant explains 80% of cases
- Additional genetic risk factors are likely

Treatment

- Surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation therapy
- Cryotherapy
- Removal of affected eye

**If your horse needs medical care, contact the Large Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393. For genetic testing, contact the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at vgl.ucdavis.edu.*



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