Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome Type 1 (WFFS)

What is warmblood fragile foal syndrome?

- Inherited defect of connective tissue that causes hyperextensible, thin, fragile skin and mucous membranes that are subject to open lesions
- Present at birth and affected newborn foals are euthanized due to the severity and poor prognosis of the condition
- A mutation has been identified and a DNA test is available.

What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- Breeders can prevent WFFS by performing DNA testing on potential sires and dams and avoiding carrier matings.
- The WFFS genetic test is currently recommended for all Warmblood/Sport Horse populations. The carrier frequency of the mutation is 9-11% in Warmbloods and 1.2% in Thoroughbreds. Three cases have been reported in Warmbloods and no cases have been reported in other breeds, including Thoroughbreds.

Signs	Cause	Treatment
Stretchy, thin, fragile skin Open skin lesions Hyperextensible joints Floppy ears Seromas Hematomas Premature birth	• Inherited (autosomal recessive) • Causative mutation identified • Affected horses have 2 copies of the mutation	None

**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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