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
- Stretchy, thin, fragile skin
- Open skin lesions
- Hyperextensible joints
- Floppy ears
- Seromas
- Hematomas
- Premature birth

### Cause
- Inherited (autosomal recessive)
- Causative mutation identified
- Affected horses have 2 copies of the mutation

### Treatment
- 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.*