

Friesian Hydrocephalus



What is Friesian hydrocephalus?

- Excessive accumulation of fluid in the brain, resulting in a dome-shaped head
- Inherited disorder in Friesian horses
- Thought to occur due to an abnormal narrowing of the opening at the base of the skull
- Affected foals are aborted, stillborn, or born with severe neurological issues.

What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- Breeders can utilize the genetic test to avoid matings that could produce affected offspring. Carrier by carrier matings should be avoided as they have a 25% chance of producing an affected foal.

Signs

Enlarged, dome-shaped head
Dystocia may occur in dams pregnant with affected foals

Transmission

Autosomal recessive mode of inheritance

Treatment

None

**If your horse needs medical care, contact the Large Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393.*



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