

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING BLOOD OR SEMEN SAMPLES FOR PROTO TESTING

## **SENDING SAMPLES TO THE LAB:**

Samples must be shipped overnight to arrive on a business day.

## **COLLECTION OF BLOOD SAMPLES:**

1. Blood must be collected in the 10 ml purple-topped Vacutainer tubes that contain an anti-coagulant.
2. Prior to collection of the blood sample, identify the animal and label the blood tube with the animal's herd prefix and tattoo number. The identification of the tube must correspond with the information on the protoporphyria genotype testing form. If the identifications do not match the lab will contact the NALF office for clarification and the testing process will be slowed considerably.
3. Blood samples may be taken by a veterinarian or individual who will:
  - a. Draw the blood through a clean, dry, sterile needle from the jugular vein. Use a hypodermic syringe to collect the sample then inject the blood into the tube. Do not remove the tube stopper. Use a new needle for collection of each sample.
  - b. Fill the blood tubes no more than 1/3 full. (Approximately 2ml) Invert the tube several times to thoroughly mix the blood with the anti-coagulant.
  - c. Be extremely careful to prevent contamination of the blood sample.
4. Place blood samples in refrigerator immediately and cool them to a temperature of between 35 and 40 degrees. Do not subject samples to freezing temperatures. Two hours of refrigeration is suggested, but keep the samples refrigerated until shipped.

## **SENDING BLOOD SAMPLES:**

1. Mail blood samples within 2 days of collection and refrigeration.
2. Package samples in a box or cardboard mailer with protective cushioning to prevent breakage. Please include a refrigerant ice pack with your sample. Mark the package: Fragile, Rush, Perishable and send to the University of Missouri address listed in the top right hand corner of the testing form.

## **SENDING SEMEN SAMPLES:**

1. Send a minimum of TWO straws of semen per animal for testing. Sending only one straw significantly reduces the chances of DNA extraction for testing and may result in a failure to determine a genotype.
2. Remove the straws of semen from the tank and make sure they are properly marked with the animal's registration number or herd prefix and tattoo.
3. Package the semen in a box with protective wrapping to prevent breakage. Semen does not need to be shipped in liquid nitrogen, but a refrigerant ice pack should be included. Mark the package: Fragile, Rush, Perishable and send to the university of Missouri address located on the testing form.
4. Please send a copy of the Proto Order Form to the NALF office.