

## EQUINE VETERINARIANS ON STUD FARMS - SAEVA 2020:

Dear Colleagues

With the Thoroughbred breeding season rapidly advancing we thought it prudent to remind each other of our duties on all equine stud farms using them as an example.

For ease of reference we have made both the form which needs completing and the TBA requirements for 2020 available.

From these you will see that:

- 1- ALL STALLIONS, BARREN – and MAIDEN mares to have a **negative DOURINE** test result.
- 2- ALL STALLIONS to have a **negative 3 - in – 1 Venereal PCR** (CEM, Pseudomonas and Klebsiella)
- 3- ALL Barren and REPEAT BREEDING MARES (mares returning to a stallion/stallions for the third time) need a procedure done **to rule out acute/chronic endometritis**. \*
- 4- STALLION MANAGERS may insist that barren or maiden mares visiting their stallion be tested with the **3 – in – 1 Venereal PCR**. #
- 5- MARES THAT CARRY THEIR FOETUS TO TERM are strictly BARREN, but they are **exempt** from Dourine or Venereal PCR requirements. You need to certify the event – not necessarily cause

Please remember that none of these requirements remove your obligation to do **a good and responsible job** using ALL your **clinical skills!!** When presented with a mare that needs to go to a stallion for a cover it is your duty to consider all the factors that will lead to a successful event. (Starting at the feet and moving all the way to the top to include perineal conformation, uterine health etc.)

More on point 3 \* above: Why the relevant Venereal PCR was dropped in favour of this I cannot understand but it is what it is. This procedure can be limited to a rectal examination, ultrasound examination of the ovaries and uterus and a swab taken from the uterus and a smear examined under a microscope. If a combination of the clinical picture, ultrasound and cytology negative of pathogens and neutrophils is presented, the mare is good to go. You can certify as such without fear of reprisal. Where one of the above indicates further investigation, it is your duty to do so. The simplest being a culture for various pathogens, and the most complex probably flushing of the oviducts with *prostaglandin E*. On the culture of potential pathogens: Please remember that even though endometrial cytology is not perfect it is AT LEAST TWICE as effective as culture for pathogens. (Lee Morris`s slide from SAEVA 2019 as a reminder!) If you cannot find bugs or neutrophils it is because they are not there! If they are there you will find them! When a lab takes five days to culture some obscure bug it is highly unlikely to have clinical relevance *per se*. Here it is VERY IMPORTANT to remember that the **biggest cause of failure to conceive** and carry is **FAILURE OF UTERINE CLEARANCE!!!** Address that and you will be ahead of the game and your responsible use of antibiotics reputation will be intact.

More on point4 # : This test is relevant and cheap. Kits for the swabbing are available from Alan Guthrie. I will certainly insist on them. Should you have a “not negative” PCR result, please insist on culture for the SPECIFIC pathogens. NOT just spp.

Bennie van der Merwe 083 460 4066 Please do not hesitate to ask!

