



PREGNANCY DETECTION IN HORSES USING THE RENCOPREG-ALERT®

For learning purposes, a mare at a known stage of pregnancy should be used, (preferably less than 100 days). Pregnancy detection in horses varies with breed, but can be detected between 30-45 days. Note that not enough research has been done with horses for RENCOPREG to provide a definite specification for detection time, technique, and reliability on all breeds. This paper merely states in a summary manner, the results of some research and is intended as a guideline.

Procedure:

- 1) Set FUNCTION switch in position "C". Set SENS control to about 2/3 clockwise rotation, (2 O'clock). Tone switch may be on if desired.
- 2) See pictorial on other side. Stand on the left side of the animal by the rear knee joints, ("stifles"). Place the probe on the abdomen, along the centerline of the animal, at a point in line with the stifles. Clean the test site and use plenty of coupling oil.
- 3) Scan the interior of the animal in the following manner: Starting with the probe pointed at the right hip bone, tilt the probe so that the ultrasonic beam scans forwards. Stop when probe is pointing at last rib. Then start tilting probe so that the beam goes backwards towards the right hip bone again, but aim the probe a little higher in the animal. Repeat this back-and-forth scanning motion until probe is vertical (pointing at spine).
- 4) While performing instruction #3, watch screen and look for spikes appearing at end of 2nd zone, or in zones 3 or 4. The earlier the stage of pregnancy, the more toward the right side of the screen will the spikes appear. As with other animals a spike may at first appear small, and will need to be "worked" to make it grow into a good strong "pregnant" spike. As with other animals, the SENS control may need to be adjusted. A true "pregnant" spike should be able to be made about 19mm (3/4") high.

Notes:

A fluid-filled bladder will give positive results. It takes only a small misalignment error to intersect the bladder and give a false-positive reading. This possibility is of greater concern with mares than with other animals. Expectations: 95% accuracy for pregnant and 31% to 60% for open, for early time frames.

HORSE (Underside)

