THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Faculty of Medicine and Health

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Thesis work

Thesis title: Stallion sperm quality and its relation to the intestinal microbiome: administration of a synbiotic supplement to improve sperm parameters and potentially enhance stallion fertility.

Supervisors: Zamira Gibb, Joanna Elizabeth Harnett [http://sydney.edu.au/pharmacy/about/people/profiles/joanna.harnett.php]

Thesis abstract:

&#65533;p&#65533; &#65533;/p&#65533; &#65533;p&#65533;The aim of this research project is to explore the connection between subfertility and the equine gastrointestinal microbiome and metabolome in stallions. This will be assessed by characterising the influence of the equine intestinal microbiome on systemic pro-inflammatory cytokines, which are hypothesised to be detrimental to spermatogenesis and adversely affect fertility. A cohort of commercial thoroughbred stallions with elevated levels of systemic inflammation and concurrent subfertility will be identified and an intervention trial will be developed to supplement the feed of these stallions with a prebiotic and probiotic supplement over a breeding season. The intervention will test the hypothesis that improving the composition of the microbiome and associated biomarkers of inflammation will correlate with an improvement in sperm quality and subsequent fertility.&#65533;/p&#65533;

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