

# Screening for *Rhodococcus equi* at Endemic Farms<sup>1</sup>



Perform Initial Thoracic Ultrasound Screen at 4, 6 and 8 weeks of age

Score any lung lesions identified according to Slovis Grading System<sup>2</sup>  
If lesions identified, collect WBC/SAA and increase ultrasound frequency to weekly with twice daily rectal temperatures until lesions begin to regress.<sup>1</sup>

Grade 1 + 2	Grade 3		Grade 4 + 5				≥ Grade 6 and/or WBC > 18.0 cells/uL  or Fibrinogen > 800 ug/dl
	WBC <13.5 cells/μL	WBC >13.5 cells/μL  and SAA > or < 75 μg/mL	WBC <13.5 cells/μL  and SAA <75 μg/mL	WBC <13.5 cells/μL  and SAA >75 μg/mL	WBC >13.5 cells/μL  and SAA <75 μg/mL	WBC >13.5 cells/μL  and SAA >75 μg/mL	
NO TREATMENT, LIKELY TO REGRESS	NO TREATMENT, LIKELY TO REGRESS	+/- TREAT  PPV 33%	+/- TREAT  PPV 21%	TREAT  PPV 57%	TREAT  PPV 44%	TREAT  PPV 73%	TREAT  PPV 86%

For each patient, initiate treatment based on comfort level of veterinarian and client, or if any of the following are present: T>102.5°F, coughing, increased respiratory rate/effort, or progression of ultrasound score. PPV=Percentage (%) likelihood of progression of disease.

The information provided is for general user understanding and does not constitute veterinary advice.

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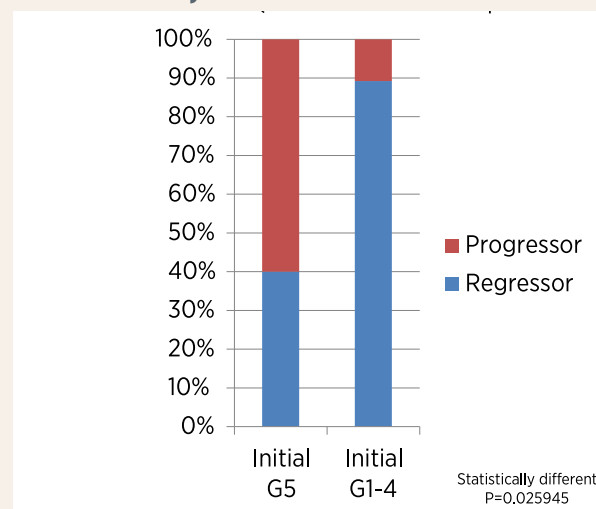


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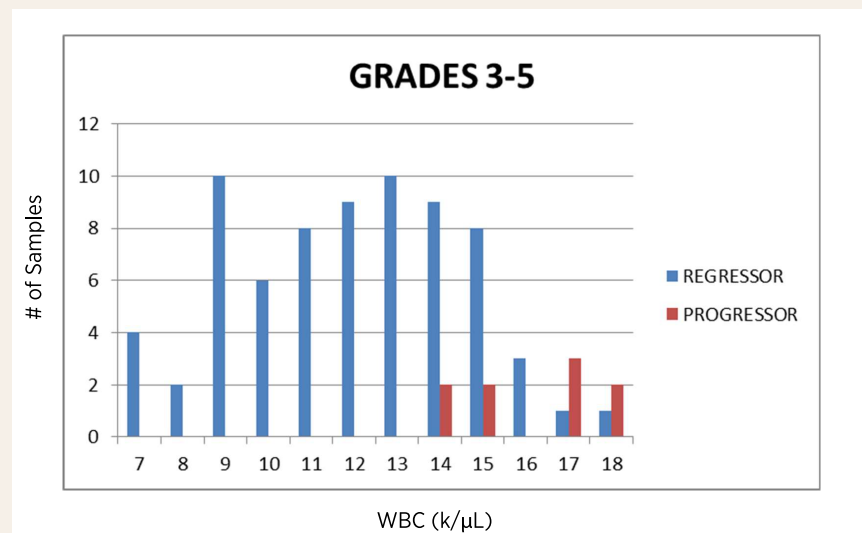
## Slovis Grading System<sup>2</sup>

Grade	Single Largest Diameter (mm)
0	No lesions
0 D ('dirty')	Excessive comet tails, often wide based
1	<10
2	10-20
3	20-30
4	30-40
5	40-50
6	50-60
7	60-70
8	70-80, also any lungs with pleural effusion

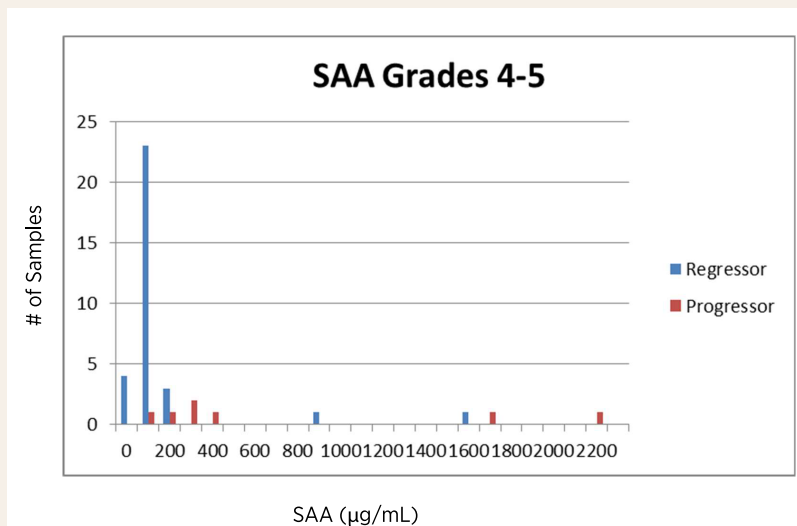
## Initial Grade of 5 is Statistically More Likely to Become Clinical<sup>1</sup>



## Significant difference between WBCs of those foals that progress versus regress<sup>1</sup> (P=0.000139)



## Significant difference between SAA of those foals that progress versus regress<sup>1</sup> (P=1.66E-08)



### References:

<sup>1</sup> McCracken, JL. Evaluation of White Blood Cell, Fibrinogen, Serum Amyloid A, and Ultrasonographic Grade to Refine a R. equi Screening Program, in Proceedings. 65th Annual American Association of Equine Practitioners Convention, 2019; 522-530.

<sup>2</sup> Slovis NM, McCracken JL, Mundy g. How to use Thoracic Ultrasound to Screen Foals for R. equi at affected farms, in Proceedings. 51st Annual American Association of Equine Practitioners Convention, 2005; 274-278.