

Drum Beat

*Show
me your
horse and
I will tell
you who
you are
English
Proverb*

Etalon Diagnostics: Minipanel, BIG information!

by Diane Gatlin

The Etalon story is a pretty simple one: We are biotech scientists/geeks who love our horses and we simply created something that we wanted for our own animals: a comprehensive, affordable genetic test that included as much information as possible. Adding to that, we weren't satisfied until we improved the platform to create something entirely new; aimed at discovery *genes* entirely new. We don't just want to know whether that funky little colt is Red or Black, but also how well he can trot or how likely he is to learn his chosen discipline. For this kind of discovery, you need scientists *and* horsey people working together to unravel the mysteries of our equine companions and athletes. In working together on this, we all discover and we all win... "we" includes our horses. In putting the Etalon team together, we chose top scientists and our advisors include just to name a few:

Dr. Carlos Bustamante (Stanford) <http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-dna-mystery-african-slave-burial-20150309-story.html>

Dr. Samantha Brooks (Cornell/UF) <http://www.thehorse.com/videos/30721/tobiano-gene-expression-research-with-dr-samantha-brooks>

We also have several wonderful top equestrian competitors working with us (to be announced at the World Cup in Vegas in April!!) so we can gain insight as to what athletes want and need to know.

As to the question of why us over the big guys? I think that's a personal choice that I can't make for anyone. While we are smaller, new and, therefore, a bit

more of a risk; we are composed of high-quality and well-thought-of scientists with proven records in genetics and biotech success. We are also, on a personal level, really into our horses and animals at home. We are also, to our knowledge, the only company following the 2013 recommendations from ISAG to move forward to this new technology for horse genetic testing. We have been approached by registries and asked to process samples that were unknown to us (but known to the registries) and we passed with flying colors. The bottom line is that, no, we're not yet a big, known, company or testing entity, but everybody's gotta start somewhere.

Interesting factoids:

1) We are women owned and operated. **Christa Lafayette** - Founder and CEO of Catalyst Biosolutions, LLC (founded 2004) specializing in surgical and behavioral models for preclinical development in biotechnology. She currently provides guidance, development, training and assistance, regulatory and team management services primarily to small biotech companies. Ms. Lafayette is a proven biotech business executive having founded and developed several companies successfully in Silicon Valley as well as assisted with the early-stage development and growth of many more.

Ms. Lafayette served as Founder and former Vice President of LifeSource Biomedical, LLC, a large-animal Contract Research Organization established in 2008 on the NASA campus. She also supported the internal life science

space programs and created a commercial CRO focused on preclinical development services for NASA. In her personal life, she is an avid competitive equestrian with an active stallion breeding program (particularly focused on performance, temperament and color) and has strong ties to the performance horse community

2) Having started in 2013, we ran many successful clinical trials through 2014 and revealed our Minipanel to the commercial public in January 2015

3) We're building a teaching site on our website that illustrates how color/genetics work and interplay with one another: <https://www.etalonx.net/horse2.1/horse-color-genetics.html>

4) We are not done. What folks are seeing right now is just the tip of the iceberg and we can't wait to reveal what's below the surface!

5) We are doing this because, a) it needs to be done, b) traditional genetic testing is too complicated to understand and too expensive, c) by helping horses and their health, we ultimately help people and their health, and, d) because we can.



DNA Minipanel Includes:

Colors & Patterns:

Agouti	Champagne	Sabino
Appaloosa Splash	Cream	Silver
Black	Dominant Whites (1-20)	Splashed Whites (1-4)
Red	Frame or Lethal White Overo	30+ Colors
Brindle (IP)	Macchiato	

Health and Breeding:

Androgen Insensitivity (AIS)	Lavender Foal Syndrome (LFS)
Cerebellar Abiotrophy (CA)	Lethal White Overo (LWO)
Equine Arteritis Virus Resist/Suscep *Discovery	Lordosis (Swayback) *Discovery
Foal Immunodeficiency Syndrome (FIS)	Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy (PSSM1)
Hereditary Equine Regional Dermal Asthenia (HERDA)	Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)
Hyperkalemic Periodic Paralysis (HYPP)	Malignant Hyperthermia (MH)
Impaired Acrosomal Reaction (IAR) *Discovery	Myotonia
Junctional Epidermolysis Bullosa (JEB1)	West Nile Virus (High vs Low Risk) *Discovery

Abilities and Performance:

Curiosity/Vigilance *Discovery (Temperament)	Gaited (Loss of Canter)	PERFORMANCE PLUS COMING SOON!
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