

Call for data on Blood collection from horses

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

CALL FOR DATA - BLOOD COLLECTION FROM HORSES

Deadline for submission of EU survey: 15 July 2025

BACKGROUND AND AIM OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

In alignment with the European Commission's Farm to Fork Strategy, which aims to revise EU animal welfare legislation based on the latest scientific evidence, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has been tasked with delivering a Scientific Opinion on the welfare of horses by December 2026. The mandate of EFSA can be consulted in [Open EFSA.](#)

Within this mandate, a specific Term of Reference (ToR) requests EFSA to provide information on **risks to horse welfare associated with the collection of blood for commercial purposes.**

As part of this initiative, EFSA organized a [stakeholder meeting](#) on June 19, 2024, in Brussels, to foster an open dialogue with stakeholders from the early stages of the risk assessment process.

Following its engagement, and in order to gather accurate, comprehensive, and up-to-date information, EFSA launches a [public call for data on blood collection from horses for commercial purposes.](#)

EFSA will then consider the relevance of the provided information for the risk assessment. The submission of the requested information is without prejudice to the final opinion of the Animal Health and Welfare Panel.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this call for data is to offer interested parties (e.g., food business operators, national food authorities, research institutions, academia) and/or other stakeholders, the opportunity to submit documented information (published and/or unpublished) relevant to **assess risks to horse welfare in relation to blood collection for commercial purposes.**

Specific Objective 1: restraining methods and blood collection practices

EFSA is looking for data on restraining methods during blood collection and blood collection practices. The requested information includes physical or chemical restraints, material used for blood collection (e.g., size of needles), volume and frequency of blood collection, time between two consecutive collections on the

same animal, and data on care provided to donor horses.

Specific Objective 2: induced and repeated abortions

EFSA is looking for data on induced and repeated abortions in the context of commercial blood collection from pregnant mares. The requested information includes frequency of induced abortions, methods and timing of termination, care provided to mares.

Interested parties and stakeholders should express their interest to submit the data **exclusively through this EU survey questionnaire**, following the instructions below.

INSTRUCTIONS

EFSA kindly invites interested parties to submit information in two consecutive steps:

Step 1: Expression of interest and reply to questions related to the specific objectives through this EU Survey.

Step 2. Official submission of data through Portalino.

See further details below:

Step 1: EU Survey Submission (Deadline: 15 July 2025)

We kindly ask you to:

1. Reply to questions in **sections 1 to 6**.
2. Submit the questions at the end of the questionnaire, by clicking on **SUBMIT**.

Please note that the survey can be submitted only once per interested party.

After successful submission, you should receive an email within seven days that includes a PDF file of submitted responses. Kindly confirm receipt of this email and ensure that you **download and save the PDF file which is required for the official data submission through Portalino ([step 2](#))**.

Step 2: Data submission through Portalino (Deadline: 23 July 2025)

Instructions for data submission through Portalino will be sent by email within 7 days after submitting the EU Survey replies. Please note that [registration to the Portalino tool](#) may require a few days. Please take that into consideration with regard to the data submission deadline.

Should you require assistance on access to Portalino or data submission, don't hesitate to contact RAL@efsa.europa.eu adding subject "Call for data – Blood collection from horses".

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

In case your organisation has **procedures** for blood collection from horses, it would be helpful if your replies are based on those procedures. If you are able to share those procedures (confidential or non-confidential), then we invite you to **submit them in the call for data via Portalino (see step 2 of call for**

data).

In the context of this questionnaire, the following definitions apply:

1. **Session:** a session begins when the donor horse is collected from its routine enclosure (e.g., stall, paddock, pasture) and led to the blood collection facility. It includes restraining and blood collection and ends when the horse returns to its routine enclosure.
2. **Needle:** includes all types of needles, catheters and cannulae used for blood collection.

YOUR DETAILS

* Full name

* Country

* E-mail

* Affiliation (institution/organisation)

Section 1: Horse restraining methods

- * 1. Which methods are used to restrain the horses during collection of blood (e.g. tethering, cross-ties, chutes, locks, belts, sedatives)?

Please specify all details of physical and/or chemical restraining methods

- * 2. During restraining and collection of blood, is the donor horse alone or are other horses present?

Please, specify

Section 2: Selection criteria for blood collection

- * 1. What criteria determine a horse's eligibility for blood collection (e.g., age, weight, temperature, health, pregnancy history, body condition score, hematocrit, other)?

Please, specify

- * 2. How do you calculate the blood volume to be collected per individual per session (e.g., body weight kg, BCS (specify which scoring system), age, time and volume of last collection)?

Please, specify

- * 3. Are the horses weighed before calculating withdrawal volume?

- ☐ YES
☐ NO
☐ I don't know

- * 4. What is the minimum and maximum time interval between blood collections from the same horse?

Please specify the time in hours, days, or weeks

Section 3. Blood collection procedure

- * 1. Is blood always collected via the jugular veins?

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

- * 2. How is the venipuncture area prepared?

Please include information on hygiene measures and use of local anaesthetics

- * 3. What apparatus/materials are used for blood collection?

Please provide details on collection bags, tubes, needles types and sizes (specify if re-usable needles are used)

- * 4. What is the maximum number of punctures per collection before you abort the session?

Please, specify

- * 5. What is the maximum amount of blood (ml or % of body weight) collected per horse in a single session?

Please, specify

- * 6. How long does a single blood collection session last?

Please, specify the average time and the maximum time blood is drawn during one session

- * 7. Do you withdraw full blood or use plasmapheresis (any re-infusion of blood cells with replacement fluids)?

Please, specify

- * 8. What are the criteria for aborting a session to protect the horse's welfare (e.g. indicators for stress or pain, haematoma at the site of collection)?

Please, specify

Section 4: Aftercare procedure

- * 1. What aftercare procedures are performed at the venipuncture site after blood collection? (e.g., cleaning, disinfection, application of medication, bandaging)

Please, specify

- * 2. How frequent and for how long are horses monitored after blood collection?

Please, specify

- * 3. Which types of behavioural and physiological checks are performed routinely after collection?

Please, specify

- * 4. Do the horses receive nutritional supplementation in relation to potential deficiencies owing to blood collection?

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

- * 5. Have you ever had incidents where horses needed oral rehydration or intravenous infusions, or medication, after blood collection (e.g. local swellings, shivering)?

Please, specify

Section 5: Blood collection and pregnancy

* Are you collecting blood from pregnant mares or horses in general (non-pregnant mares, geldings, stallions)?

- ☐ Pregnant mares
- ☐ Horses in general (non-pregnant mares, gelding, stallions)

Section 6: Staff training and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place

* 1. What training do staff receive for handling of horses in relation to blood collection procedures (flow from picking up the horse to its release, including restraining methods in the holding pen and during blood collection).

Please, provide details on training methods and frequency of training received.

* 2. Are there standard operating procedures (SOPs) or official controls in place for blood collection?

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

Contact

[Contact Form](#)