New Bolton Center's Lyme Disease Evaluation Package is designed for horses that need the highest level of diagnostic certainty.

Comprehensive Equine Lyme Disease Evaluation Package

Penn Vet’s New Bolton Center offers a Comprehensive Equine Lyme Disease Evaluation package designed to find the answer to an often complex diagnostic puzzle. Our board-certified specialists in Internal Medicine, Neurology, Ophthalmology, and Sports Medicine work as a team to find the answer to the vexing question: Is it Lyme?

The tick-borne infection is endemic in the Mid-Atlantic region, where up to 90% of horses show evidence of exposure. The vast majority of exposed horses do not develop clinical signs of disease. However, some infected horses will develop central nervous system, orthopedic, or ophthalmic infections. Clinical signs include lameness, arthritis, joint swelling, muscle soreness, gait abnormalities, neck stiffness, weight loss, behavioral changes, uveitis, seizures, difficulty eating, heart rhythm abnormalities, difficulty breathing, and collapse.

Differentiating the horses that have been exposed to *Borrelia burgdorferi*, a bacterium that causes Lyme disease, but whose clinical signs can be attributed to a non-infectious disease, is a challenge. A simple blood test can show evidence of exposure, but often it cannot give a definitive diagnosis.

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Package includes:

- **Neurologic examination** by a board-certified specialist in Internal Medicine, in consultation with a board-certified Neurologist in cases with an abnormality
- **Lameness examination** by a board-certified specialist in Surgery or Equine Sports Medicine
- **Ophthalmic examination** by a board-certified specialist in our large animal Ophthalmology Service, including aqueocentesis (obtaining a sample of fluid from the eye to test for Lyme), if indicated
- **Upper airway endoscopy** to assess the neurologic function of the pharynx and larynx (throat) to look for abnormalities in the nerves that control function of the upper airway, often seen in neuroborreliosis (neurological Lyme) cases
- **Cerebrospinal fluid analysis** (spinal tap), if indicated, to test for antibodies against Lyme in the brain and spinal cord
- **Serum Lyme multiplex assay** for antibodies against Lyme (to create a ratio with values obtained from the spinal fluid, and ocular samples) to make the most accurate assessment possible
- **Consultation with a team of specialists** to identify the correct course of treatment if Lyme is identified, or to move forward with other diagnostic testing if needed. Some horses that show signs of Lyme disease, but are negative on the testing, may benefit from immune function testing.

**Horses that would benefit from the Comprehensive Lyme Evaluation package:**

- Horses with neurologic diseases that are not consistent with EPM (Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis), Wobbler’s Syndrome, or other causes of central nervous system dysfunction. This can include incoordination, muscle wasting, breathing abnormalities, behavior changes, or seizures.
- Horses with upper airway dysfunction not explained by other causes, such as laryngeal hemiplegia, displacement of the soft palate, or pharyngeal collapse.
- Horses, especially at high levels of performance, with shifting limb lameness, performance deficits, or gait abnormalities that may cause a subtle reduction in athletic performance.
- Horses with uveitis in one or both eyes that does not respond appropriately to treatment.

**Package Details**

**COST**
$1,275

**SCHEDULE**
One day:
Arrive 10 a.m.
Discharge 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**APPOINTMENTS**
610.444.5800

Pricing effective from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. Prices are subject to change. Please call to confirm pricing.