



THE HORSE SHELTER

Rescuing abused, abandoned and neglected horses throughout New Mexico

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1944-2004

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In conjunction with Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, The Horse Shelter is participating in a research study to locate specific genetic variations that account for body size, with the hope of increasing understanding of traits important in equine conformation, performance and soundness.

Several of our horses are among the 1000 which the project hopes to analyze in their quest for an accurate picture of relative body scale. At the request of students working with Dr. Samantha Brooks, who is collaborating with Dr. Nathan Sutter, we took 35 measurements, ranging from ear length to the circumference of the hind cannon bone. We also provided mane hair samples for DNA testing, a three generation pedigree as well as head and body profile photographs. According to Dr. Brooks, they'll compare what can be "learned about scale to 50,000 genetic markers that have been identified in the horse's genome, to identify genetic regions associated with large and small size. . . . If we can find out what genes direct skeletal development, that knowledge may lead to better understanding of skeletal disorders."

For more information about the project, please contact the Brooks Equine Genetic lab at 607 254 8217 equinegenetics@cornell.edu, or the Sutter Genetics lab at 607 253 3592, sutterlab@cornell.edu.

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