

What is Parentage Verification through DNA?
&
Why is It Important?

Did you ever wonder why you have to get those DNA samples before your horse can be registered? Even though it may seem to be quite a tedious process, the benefits of having it done are worth it.

First of all, it **proves** the ancestors or lineage of your horse. There are many organizations that are willing to print out a “registration” document based on nothing more than the printed registration of a supposed sire and dam. The problem with that is twofold:

1. There is no documentation to prove that those papers actually belong to the sire or dam.
2. There is no way to prove any relationship between the horse being registered and the supposed sire and dam.

It is like an adopted child not knowing who his birth parents are. This is important for health, i.e. issues such as megaesophagus, dwarfism, hydrocephalism etc., allows prospective owners to know exactly what they are buying, and if the horse is destined for the show ring, will not be able to compete in USEF Friesian shows unless the registration is issued by a foreign or domestic registry that maintains proof of Friesian heritage through DNA testing and record maintenance. This is Number 4 of the United States Equestrian Federation, **USEF**, rules for the **Friesian and Part-Bred Friesian** so anyone who thinks they don't need DNA testing for their Part-Bred Friesian will be disappointed when they are not allowed to show.

So, before you breed your mare, make sure DNA is on file for the stallion you have selected or if it is not, the stallion owner is willing to make a DNA sample available.

If you are purchasing a Friesian or Part-Bred Friesian, make sure the “Registry” does parent verification through DNA on all horses.