

## **HERDA**

**Hereditary equine regional dermal asthenia (HERDA) or hyperelastosis cutis (HC)** is an inherited autosomal recessive connective tissue disorder (skin disease). Quarter Horses diagnosed with HERDA (either carrier or afflicted) have been genetically linked to POCO BUENO, and his full brother OLD GRANDDAD through both sire and dam. Early on, researchers named Dry Doc, Doc O'Lena, Great Pine, and Zippo Pine Bar as carriers after producing at least one afflicted foal. *Horses with a single recessive gene do not express the disorder but have a 50% chance of passing it to their offspring. Horses must have two recessive genes to suffer from this disorder. Breeding two carriers allows for a 25% chance of producing an afflicted offspring with two recessive genes.*

### **Lethal:**

– Often YES. There is no cure. Typically, the disease is not discovered until age 2 when saddle training begins, unless an injury occurs earlier. HERDA affected horses can die of infection from open skin wounds that cannot heal properly. Quality of life greatly affected.

### **Inheritance:**

–Simple recessive.

### **Affected breeds:**

– Quarter Horses, Paints, and Appaloosas and cross breeds descending from Poco Bueno and his sire King.

### **Statistics:**

– 28% of cutting horse bloodlines carry HERDA

### **Available Tests:**

–YES. Direct test.

### **Treatment:**

– There is no treatment for the cause of HERDA. Most affected individuals are put down due to poor quality of life. Horses that are not euthanized must be kept out of the sun and heat as it can worsen symptoms. Consult a vet.

### **Prevention:**

– Possible carrier horses should be tested. Carriers should not be bred together. If they are there is a 25% chance of producing a HERDA foal.

### **Links:**

<http://www.aqha.com/en/News/News-Articles/02032012-Genetic-Testing.aspx>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hereditary\\_equine\\_regional\\_dermal\\_asthenia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hereditary_equine_regional_dermal_asthenia)

<http://www.horsetesting.com/HERDA.htm>

<http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=1728>

<http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=16800>

[http://www.aqha.com.au/registry\\_services/generic\\_HERDA.asp](http://www.aqha.com.au/registry_services/generic_HERDA.asp)

<http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/herda.php>

<http://www.bringinglighttohypp.org/HERDA.html>

summary and format from:

<http://www.horsegroomingsupplies.com/horse-forums/breeders-guide-to-equine-genetic-disorders-367267.html>