

# **EQ. GERIATRIC BLOOD EXAM – Part Three**

## **THYROID (T4)**

- Geriatric = > or = 20 yrs. Old
  
- When to test:
  1. If approaching 20 yrs. old or older.
  2. If already diagnosed with Insulin Resistance and/or Cushing's, or exhibits symptoms listed below – **REGARDLESS OF AGE!**
  3. If history of:
    - Lethargy
    - Obesity – “Easy Keeper”
    - Dull Coat
    - Poor hoof wall growth and/or strength (cracks easily)
    - Founder/Laminitis
    - Unable to get or maintain pregnancy
    - Chronic non-healing wounds
    - Re-occurring infections: respiratory, foot abscesses,
    - Long Shaggy Hair
    - Cresty neck
  
- Blood Test Procedure:
  1. Draw blood anytime.
  2. Test results can take up to two days, depending on when drawn.
  3. Concurrent administration of corticosteroids or bute can result in falsely decreased blood levels.
  
- Treatment and Maintenance (if positive):
  1. Thyro-L
    - If already diagnosed with IR and on Fenugreek, then supplementation of Thro-L may be decreased or eliminated.
    - Start with recommended dose once per day.
    - Life long supplement and must be adjusted as test results dictate.
  2. Recheck every 30 – 60 days until stabilized, then once per year unless clinical signs change.