

August 23, 2018

Robin Collins
Heritage Discovery Center, Inc.
40222 Millstream Lande
Madera, CA 93636

Dear Robin,

I am delighted that you will be participating in the ongoing research that compares existing Colonial Spanish Horses to bones found in archeological digs in Iberia. This research is being accomplished in Europe, but with various colleagues from the Americas.

I am especially pleased that the Wilbur-Cruce strain will be represented. They are important as one of the more western strains, and one of the best documented. In that regard they represent a unique strain of this old breed of horse, and one that is distinct from the more common diffusion of this breed out from New Mexico in the early days of Spanish colonization. The Wilbur-Cruce strain therefore holds a key part of the diversity within the breed, and this is a great chance to compare them back to the original types of horses found in Iberia before domestication. The results should shed important light on the interrelationships of this horse that was so pivotal in world history for centuries.

I hope all is going well with you and with the horses. I appreciate your commitment to them over decades. Without advocates such as you, research such as this would be impossible.

Sincerely,



D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, PhD
Professor of Pathology and Genetics

