About Us

Plusvital is the world’s leading provider of genetic testing to the Thoroughbred industry. Powered by Equinome’s cutting edge genomic tools, we provide tests which analyse the DNA of the horse to predict optimum race distance, optimum race surface and performance potential. We assist leading trainers, owners and breeders in all of the major Thoroughbred regions around the world from our headquarters in Dublin, Ireland.

In 2017, Plusvital have launched the Plusvital Racing GenePak, which provides objective, scientific information to support training and race entry decisions.

The Speed Gene Test

The Speed Gene Test was launched by Equinome in 2010 and since then has grown to be the most firmly established genetic tool for Thoroughbred horses around the globe. The test examines changes in the DNA within the “Myostatin” gene, which is responsible for muscle development and muscle fibre type.

The test then categorises horses into three distinctive types:

- **C:C** Sprint/Mile Types (5-8f)
- **C:T** Middle Distance Types (7-12f)
- **T:T** Staying Types (10+f)

Speed Gene Test results can be used to:

- Determine optimum race distance
- Inform expectations on 2-year-old performance
- Increase strike rates and earnings through optimised training and racing decisions.

The Distance Plus Test

The Distance Plus Test refines the predicted optimum race distance to within a couple of furlongs, sub-categorising the Speed Gene types into “Short” or “Long” (e.g. C:T – Short or C:T – Long).

This test, launched in 2016, looks at 50,000 genetic markers to provide an enhanced level of information when combined with the Speed Gene Test. As with all technologies, the products developed by Plusvital scientists continue to evolve and improve.

Average Best Race Distance

(European Black Type only – 463 horses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race Distance</th>
<th>C:C C:T T:T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5f</td>
<td>Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8f</td>
<td>C:C Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12f</td>
<td>T:T Short</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*95%+ of horses will have their best distance within the Speed Gene Test range.

What’s Your Type?

Each genetic type has equal potential to be an elite racehorse, but they get there in very different ways:

- **C:C** tend to be earlier maturing and are better suited to the shorter 2-year-old distances with higher strike rates and earnings at this age.
- **C:T** are the most versatile type; they can perform well over shorter distances as 2-year-olds and then progress to run over middle distances as 3-year-olds and beyond. Therefore, this type has the highest earning potential in Europe.
- **T:T** tend to be later maturing and are less suited to 2-year-old racing. However, they develop as three-year-olds and have equal lifetime earning potential to C:C types.

Test Prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Type</th>
<th>€295</th>
<th>£260</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speed Gene Test Only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racing GenePak (Speed Gene + Distance Plus)</td>
<td>€435</td>
<td>£380</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

plusvital.com
Why Test Your Racehorse?

Using the Speed Gene test and Distance Plus Genetic test to identify the best distance range from when the horse arrives in the yard means:

1. **Optimise Training & Race Selection**
   Train a horse to its strengths resulting in higher performance and fewer injuries.

2. **Improved Strike Rates**
   Win more races and increase earnings because horses are racing at their best trip earlier.

3. **Happier Owners**
   Manage your owner’s expectations with objective scientific information on likely two-year-old performance, best trip and race selection.

"Having done a genetic test, it’s implications have opened my eyes into thinking about what the optimum distance of a horse could be and how it can **contradict the normal assumptions** that might be made based on pedigree."


**The Testing Process**

- **Client takes blood sample from individual in a purple top test tube.**
- **Samples are sent to Plusvital labs, clearly labelled, where they are processed.**
- **DNA is extracted from the blood, analysed and results sent back to sales team.**
- **Your sales executive will arrange a personalised results consultation.**
FAQs

Q: How do I explain this additional cost to owners?
A: The use of these technologies eliminates overheads in the long run by reducing the need to try horses over distances they prove to be unsuited to.

Q: How do I manage owner expectations with this information?
A: This information could also be used to support your judgement on the ideal trip or likely two-year-old performance where this might not match expectations based on pedigree or physical type.

Q: Does this test tell me if a horse is more likely to be elite?
A: These tests are not designed to identify elite performance potential, but rather identify the conditions under which each individual horse can perform to its maximum potential.

Q: How do I incorporate this into the training regime?
A: Like all other training aids, this information can be incorporated into the regime by using it as a reference point to support or inform key decisions such as race entries.

Q: Can’t I infer this information from the pedigree?
A: Genetic testing and pedigree go hand in hand as the tests will give a definitive answer to what we are already attempting to infer from pedigree, but pedigree alone can often be misleading.

Q: In the past, I have trained full siblings that wanted completely different distances. How is this related to genetics?
A: As the genes are inherited in pairs, one from the dam and one from the sire, it is very common for full siblings to inherit different combinations of genes and thus be completely different types of racehorses. This is the reason why genetic testing is more accurate than pedigree alone.

Q: Can the Speed Gene test be used for National Hunt horses?
A: Studies from horses in training in leading National Hunt yards have shown that C:C horses were found to be less likely to win at any distance, and over 95% of winners at longer than three miles were T:T horses.

“Sometimes a pedigree doesn’t always give the truest picture of a horse’s natural aptitude regarding its best distance and precocity. I have found the Plusvital Speed Gene Test an extremely useful tool in levelling those differences and giving some concrete data that can help provide a more tailor-made training programme for each horse. This helps give the horse and owner their best possible chance for success.

- Francis-Henri Graffard, G1 winning Trainer.”