

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                                    |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1 INTRODUCTION .....                                                               | 1  |
| 1.1 The Equine Metabolic Syndrome .....                                            | 1  |
| 1.1.1 Obesity and assessment of body condition in horses .....                     | 2  |
| 1.1.2 Hyperinsulinemia, insulin resistance and insulin dysregulation in horses ... | 3  |
| 1.1.3 Assessment of disturbances in insulin regulation in horses .....             | 5  |
| 1.2 Glucose homeostasis and insulin action .....                                   | 8  |
| 1.3 Lipid metabolism and insulin actions .....                                     | 10 |
| 1.4 Insulin signaling .....                                                        | 13 |
| 1.4.1 Current knowledge on insulin signaling in horses .....                       | 15 |
| 2 HYPOTHESIS AND AIMS .....                                                        | 17 |
| 3 MANUSCRIPT I .....                                                               | 21 |
| 4 MANUSCRIPT II .....                                                              | 35 |
| 5 MANUSCRIPT III .....                                                             | 47 |
| 6 GENERAL DISCUSSION .....                                                         | 59 |
| 7 MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION .....                                              | 73 |
| 8 FUTURE PERSPECTIVES .....                                                        | 75 |
| 9 REFERENCES .....                                                                 | 77 |
| 10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....                                                          | 93 |