Appendix 1: Assays used for RT-PCR

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| ***Gene*** | ***Amplicon***  ***Size*** | ***Assay Catalog Number*** | ***Reference Sequence*** |
| Interleukin 1, beta | 70 | Cf02671952\_m1 | NM\_001037971.1 |
| Interleukin 6 | 68 | Cf02624151\_m1 | NM\_001003301.1 |
| Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha | 131 | Cf02628237\_m1 | NM\_001003244.4 |
| SOX-9 | 103 | Cf02625134\_g1 | NM\_001002978.1 |
| Collagen, Type I, alpha 1 | 87 | Cf02623126\_m1 | NM\_001003090.1 |
| Collagen, Type II, alpha 1 | 89 | Cf02622862\_m1 | NM\_001006951.1 |
| Aggrecan | 125 | Cf02674826\_m1 | NM\_001113455.1 |
| GAPDH | 97 | AIWRF9W | NM\_001003142.1 |