

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2023

Activities in 2023

This report has been submitted : 11 juin 2024 16:21

Laboratory Information

Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOA Reference Laboratory:	Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
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Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Prof. Dr. med. vet. Torsten Seuberlich
Name (including Title and Position) of WOA Reference Expert:	Prof. Dr. med. vet. Torsten Seuberlich
Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:	Academic institution

TOR1: DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.?

(Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)

Yes

Diagnostic Test	Indicated in WOA Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests		Nationally	Internationally
Direct diagnostic tests		Nationally	Internationally
BSE Western immunoblot		39	0
BSE rapid test (ELISA)		1830	0
BSE immunohistochemistry		6	0
BSE discriminatory Western immunoblot		2	0

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOA?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAH-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOA Members?

Yes

TYPE OF REAGENT AVAILABLE	RELATED DIAGNOSTIC TEST	PRODUCED/ PROVIDE	AMOUNT SUPPLIED NATIONALLY (ML, MG)	AMOUNT SUPPLIED INTERNATIONALLY (ML, MG)	NO. OF RECIPIENT WOA MEMBER COUNTRIES	COUNTRY OF RECIPIENTS
BSE positive brain	BSE Western					

homogenates	immunoblot	Switzerland	0	5 ML	1	CROATIA,
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4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

Not applicable

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOAHA Members?

Not applicable

TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

7. Did your laboratory validate diagnostic methods according to WOAHA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

Yes

NAME OF THE NEW TEST OR DIAGNOSTIC METHOD DEVELOPED	DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCES (PUBLICATION, WEBSITE, ETC.)
Western immunoblot detection using near-infrared fluorescence	Internal validation of a new detection method for BSE Western immunoblot signals

8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOAHA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOAHA Members?

No

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOAHA Member?

Yes

NAME OF THE WOAHA MEMBER COUNTRY RECEIVING A TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY	PURPOSE	HOW THE ADVICE WAS PROVIDED
URUGUAY	Usage of BSE positive control tissues in immunohistochemistry	Email

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

12. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with WOAHA Members other than the own?

Yes

Title of the study	Duration	PURPOSE OF THE STUDY	PARTNERS (INSTITUTIONS)	WOAHA MEMBER COUNTRIES INVOLVED OTHER THAN YOUR COUNTRY
Second passage transmission of unusual BSE cases from Switzerland in cattle	10 years	Determine disease transmissibility	CFIA Canada, Lethbridge Laboratory	CANADA

13. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOAHA?

No

TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

14. Did your Laboratory collect epidemiological data relevant to international disease control?

Yes

IF THE ANSWER IS YES, PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE DATA COLLECTED:

Conduction of targeted active and passive BSE surveillance and molecular typing of BSE cases

15. Did your laboratory disseminate epidemiological data that had been processed and analysed?

No

16. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory? (Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category and list the details in the box)

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

8

Different scientific publications on neurological diseases in cattle

b) International conferences:

2

1. Annual European Reference Laboratory for TSE meeting, Rome (I)

2. TSE Network of the European Food Safety Agency, Parma (I)

c) National conferences:

1

Annual meeting of the veterinary laboratory managements in Switzerland, Bern, Switzerland

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

0

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOAHA Members?

No

TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO17025	not yet formally accredited	

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

No

20. Does your laboratory maintain a "biorisk management system" for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

We are running a biorisk management system in line with the Swiss Ordinance on Handling Organisms in Contained Systems

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

21. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAHA?

No

22. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAHA?

No

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAHA REFERENCE LABORATORIES

23. Did your laboratory exchange information with other WOAHA Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

Yes

24. Do you network (collaborate or share information) with other WOA Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOA REF. LABS
Annual EURL TSE meeting	Participant	26	WOAH BSE Ref Lab Torino/Roma (I)
EFSa TSE Network	Participant	24	WOAH BSE Ref Lab Torino/Roma (I)

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOA Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

Yes

PURPOSE OF THE PROFICIENCY TESTS: 1	ROLE OF YOUR REFERENCE LABORATORY (ORGANISER/ PARTICIPANT)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOA REF. LABS/ ORGANISING WOA REF. LAB.
BSE rapid test	Participant	26	WOAH and EURL BSE Ref Lab Torino/Roma (I)
BSE Western immunoblot	Participant	20	WOAH and EURL BSE Ref Lab Torino/Roma (I)
BSE discriminatory Western immunoblot	Participant	6	WOAH and EURL BSE Ref Lab Torino/Roma (I)

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOA Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest?

Yes

TITLE OF THE PROJECT OR CONTRACT	SCOPE	NAME(S) OF RELEVANT WOA REFERENCE LABORATORIES
Second passage transmission of atypical Swiss BSE cases in cattle	Determine disease transmissibility	WOAH BSE Reference Laboratory, Lethbridge, Canada

TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOA Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen?

No

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

28. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of WOA?

No

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

The international activity based in our mandate as WOA Reference Laboratory for BSE remains marginal This is mainly due to the low disease burden and a low need for international expert consultancy. Nevertheless we are maintaining full testing capacities (rapid tests, confirmatory tests and discumintory tests). The laboratory is in the progress of accreditation of the QM system. We are expecting a final decision of the Swiss Accreditation Service on our application by early 2025. Untl then we are already working under a QM system accroding to ISO 17025 requirements.