

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2024

This report has been submitted: 31 janvier 2025 07:09

LABORATORY INFORMATION

*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAH Reference Laboratory:	Scrapie
*Address of laboratory:	Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Weybridge, Pathology Dept., Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3NB, UK
*Tel:	+442080269755
*E-mail address:	john.spiropoulos@apha.gov.uk
Website:	https://science.vla.gov.uk/tseglobalnet/oie.html
*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Dr Jenny Stewart
*Name (including Title and Position) of WOAH Reference Expert:	Dr John Spiropoulos, Senior Veterinary Pathologist
*Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:	Governmental

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 WOAH Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
Indirect diagnostic tests		Nationally	Internationally
ELISA/EIA	Yes	126	0

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Western blot	Yes	115	0
Immunohistochemistry	Yes	1030	0
Histopathology	Yes	858	0
Pet-blot	No	13	0
Direct diagnostic tests		Nationally	Internationally

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

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

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAH-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOA?H 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?H Member Countries	Country of recipients
uNSTINED SECTIONS	IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY	4	0	4	2	AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL,

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

Not applicable

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOA?H 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 WOA?H Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

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

No

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

No

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

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

No

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

Yes

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Name of the WOA Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
AUSTRALIA BRAZIL	PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ADVICE	VIA EMAIL

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

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

No

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

No

TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

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

No

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:

1

MRI changes observed in a case of atypical scrapie in a 7-year-old Herdwick ewe

b) International conferences:

1

Experimental Challenge of Goats to determine genetic resistance to Classical Scrapie

c) National conferences:

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

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOA 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)	
ISO/IEC 17025:2017	PDF	ISO 17025.pdf
GLP	PDF	GLPStatementofCompliance_APHA_25 April 2024.pdf
ISO9001:2015	PDF	ANIMAL PLANT HEALTH AGENCY - Certificate UK013916 - ISO 9001 - exp. 25-07-2026.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Immunohistochemistry	VETQAS
Western blot	VETQAS

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

Yes

Implementation of all necessary protective & preventative measures plus decontamination protocols in compliance with national legislation and the guidelines issued by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens' Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (ACDP TSE) subgroup.

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

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

No

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

No

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOA REFERENCE LABORATORIES

23. Did your laboratory exchange information with other WOA 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?

No

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOA Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

Yes

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Purpose of the proficiency test:	Role of your Reference Laboratory (organiser/ participant)	No. participating Laboratories	Participating WOA Ref. Labs/ organising WOA Ref Lab
Immunohistochemistry	Participant	32	EU and affiliated countries / IZT
Western Blot	Participant	32	EU and affiliated countries / IZT
Pathology Interpretation	Participant	32	EU and affiliated countries / IZT

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?

No

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 during the past 2 years?

No

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
Reply to ad hoc questions regarding the scrapie chapter in the Terrestrial Manual	Tele-communication	Addressing questions raised by WOA.

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

This OIE scrapie reference laboratory has also produced and provided via VETQAS Proficiency Testing (APHA's independent, accredited, proficiency testing service) brain tissue to 25 participants for ELISA validation and to 9 participants for confirmatory western blot validation. The OIE reference laboratory was involved in tissue production, data interpretation and provided technical advice whenever it was required.