World Organisation for Animal Health

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WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2024

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LABORATORY INFORMATION

***Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAH Reference Laboratory:**	Enzootic bovine leukosis
***Address of laboratory:**	APHA, Weybridge. Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone. KT15 3NB
***Tel:**	+44 7920 020 671
***E-mail address:**	bhudipa.choudhury@apha.gov.uk
Website:	www.gov.uk/apha
***Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):**	Dr Jenny Stewart
***Name (including Title and Position) of WOAH Reference Expert:**	Dr Bhudipa Choudhury, Lead Scientist for the Animal and Zoonotic Disease Portfolio.
***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	Yes	1294	167
AGIDT	Yes	322	1
Direct diagnostic tests		Nationally	Internationally

PCR	Yes	11	0

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

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

No

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

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

Not applicable

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

Yes

Name of the new test or diagnostic method developed	Description and References (Publication, website, etc.)
Real-time PCR	The real-time PCR as described by Rola-Łuszczak et al., 2013 has been validated and an application made for its accreditation. Once accredited, this method will replace the currently used conventional PCR.

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

No

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

No

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

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

No

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

Yes

Name of the WOAH Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
MOROCCO	Quality assurance	Email
TURKEY	Proficiency testing	Email
CHILE	Serological diagnostics query	Email

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

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

Yes

Title of the study	Duration	Purpose of the study	Partners (Institutions)	WOAH Member Countries involved other than your country
WOAH Twinning	2 years	Primarily capacity building, the opportunity is also being used to investigate BLV genotypes in Kazkahstan and sero-positivity in camels herd which are in close proximity to cattle.	WOAH EBL Ref Lab in Poland	KAZAKHSTAN POLAND

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

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:
National surveillance data which proves disease freedom.

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:

b) International conferences:

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New insight into Bovine Leukemia Virus genotype G12 circulating in East Kazakhstan
Marzena Rola-Łuszczak, Anna Ryło, Sałtanat Mamanova, Elvira Bashenova, Ewelina Iwan, Bhudipa Choudhury, Jacek Kuźmak
Conference: HTLV-2024 (https://www.htlv2024.org/)

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 WOAH 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 17025	PDF	ISO17025 Certificate.pdf
ISO 9001	PDF	ISO 9001 Certificate.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
ELISA	UKAS
AGIDT	UKAS
PCR	UKAS

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

Yes

APHA maintains a complete and functioning laboratory biological risk management system, which ensures that the laboratory is in compliance with applicable local, national (UK Health and Safety Executive), regional, and international standards and requirements for biosafety and laboratory biosecurity. (in accordance with the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, Chapter 1.1.4)

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

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

No

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

Yes

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Title of event	Date	location	Role (speaker, presenting poster, short communications)	Title of the work presented
Wash-up meeting WOAH Twinning Project.	2024-05-13	Kazakhstan	Speaker (including oral presentation) and Reviewer	Lab Requirements for Quality Assurance. Review/wash-up meeting of the WOAH Twinning Project with Kazakhstan and discussion of next steps now that the project has ended e.g., manuscripts to be completed and potential future collaborations.

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAH REFERENCE LABORATORIES

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

Yes

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

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOAH REF. LABS
EBL	Co-organiser.	2	Poland - there are only two EBL WOAH IRLs.

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

Yes

Purpose of the proficiency test:	Role of your Reference Laboratory (organiser/ participant)	No. participating Laboratories	Participating WOAH Ref. Labs/ organising WOAH Ref Lab
PCR	Participant	12	Poland

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOAH 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 WOAH Reference Laboratories**
WOAH Twinning Project	Production of standards by the NRL in Kazakhstan for use nationally and internationally. This work is in collaboration with the fellow WOAH Ref Lab in Poland as part of the Twinning Project	Poland.

TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOAH Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

Yes

Purpose for inter-laboratory test comparisons1	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAH Member Countries
Serology - milk	Organiser	10	ELISA	AUSTRIA, DENMARK, ESTONIA, GREECE, LATVIA, MALTA, NORWAY, SWEDEN, UNITED KINGDOM,
Serology- sera	Organiser	26	ELISA	AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CANADA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ECUADOR, ESTONIA, FRANCE, GREECE, INDIA, MALTA, MOROCCO, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SERBIA, SLOVENIA, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM,

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
Review and update of the WOAH Terrestrial Manual Chapter for EBL	Online	EBL

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

Q4/5 and 8/9: Not applicable: BLV (the causative agent of EBL) is a retrovirus, as such vaccine design/production is highly unlikely.
Q6 and 7: The diagnostic techniques are established so whilst their performance is continuously monitored limited updates have been required i.e., there is only one BLV serotype and despite multiple genotypes there is no impact on molecular diagnosis with existing tests.
Q15: answer "No", as explained in Q14 surveillance was conducted, as BLV was not detected there was accordingly no need for follow up. These data were shared with the fellow Ref Lab in Poland and the NRL in Kazakhstan with whom there was a Twinning Project (2022-2024).
Q24: As the Commission is aware there are only two Reference Laboratories for EBL: GB and Poland, accordingly there isn't a "network" as such, rather we routinely maintain informal contact with each other.