

# WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2024

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## LABORATORY INFORMATION

<b>*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAH Reference Laboratory:</b>	Equine influenza
<b>*Address of laboratory:</b>	Equine Research Institute, Japan Racing Association 1400-4 Shiba, Shimotsuke, Tochigi 329-0412 JAPAN
<b>*Tel:</b>	+81-285 44.0090
<b>*E-mail address:</b>	manabu_nemoto@jra.go.jp, nemoto_manabu@equinst.go.jp
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://japanracing.jp/en/about/jra_organization/jeri.html">https://japanracing.jp/en/about/jra_organization/jeri.html</a>
<b>*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):</b>	Toshiyuki Takahashi DVM, PhD, Director
<b>*Name (including Title and Position) of WOAH Reference Expert:</b>	Manabu Nemoto DVM, PhD
<b>*Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:</b>	Horse racing authority

## 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

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Haemagglutination Inhibition	Yes	5	0
<b>Direct diagnostic tests</b>		<b>Nationally</b>	<b>Internationally</b>
Conventional RT-PCR	No	15	0
Real-time RT-PCR	Yes	626	0

## 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?

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOA?H Members?

No

## 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

Name of the WOA?H Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
NEPAL	How to confirm equine influenza	E-mail
UNITED KINGDOM	Provision of serum treatment protocol for serological tests for equine influenza	E-mail

## TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

**Manabu Nemoto - - JAPAN**

12. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with WOAHP 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
Antigenic characterisation of Florida sublineage clade 1 strains	2022-	To evaluate the effectiveness of vaccines against recently circulating Florida sublineage clade 1 strains	Irish Equine Centre, Gluck Equine Research Center, University of Kentucky	IRELAND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

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:

- We performed RT-PCR for equine influenza using nasal swabs collected from febrile racehorses in Japan, and they were all negative.
- We imported recent strains from abroad and performed the antigenic characterisation.

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

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:

We submitted the data to the WOAHP expert surveillance panel on equine influenza vaccine composition.

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:

0

b) International conferences:

6

WOAH expert surveillance panel on equine influenza vaccine composition, 5th International Symposium on Neglected Influenza Viruses,

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*12th International Equine Infectious Diseases Conference, WOAHP Regional Workshop on "Facilitation of International Horse Movement" in Asia and the Pacific 2024, 4th Regional Meeting for WOAHP Reference Centres in Asia and the Pacific, WOAHP Regional workshop on laboratory expertise for equine diseases in Asia and the Pacific*

c) National conferences:

0

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 WOAHP Members?

Yes

a) Technical visit : 0

b) Seminars : 1

c) Hands-on training courses: 0

d) Internships (> 1 month) 0

Type of technical training provided (a, b, c or d)	Country of origin of the expert(s) provided with training	No. participants from the corresponding country
B	JAPAN	20

## TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO17025	PDF	L24-737.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Conventional RT-PCR	Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation (PJLA)

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

Yes

We have specific laboratories with restricted access. Experiments have been performed and viruses have been stored at specific laboratories with safety cabinets and autoclaves. The application related to biorisk management was submitted to MAFF of Japan to use

equine influenza virus for our research and was accepted.

## TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

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

No

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

Yes

Title of event	Date	location	Role (speaker, presenting poster, short communications)	Title of the work presented
WOAH Regional Workshop on "Facilitation of International Horse Movement" in Asia and the Pacific 2024	2024-01-16	Pattaya, Thailand	Speaker	WOAH Reference laboratory for Equine Influenza
4th Regional Meeting for WOAHP Reference Centres in Asia and the Pacific	2024-07-17	Tokyo, Japan	Speaker	Collaboration between three reference laboratories for equine influenza
WOAH Regional workshop on laboratory expertise for equine diseases in Asia and the Pacific	2024-09-17	Tokyo, Japan	Speaker	Vaccines and recommended vaccination schedules to prevent equine influenza (EI)
WOAH Expert Surveillance Panel on equine influenza vaccine composition	2024-09-26	Hybrid (In person and videoconference)	Speaker	Antigenic differences between vaccine strains and recent strains.

## TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAHP REFERENCE LABORATORIES

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

Yes

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

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOAHP REF. LABS
Equine Influenza	Organise and Participant	10	Irish Equine Centre, Gluck Equine Research Center, University of Kentucky

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

No

*We organised or participated in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with a laboratory other than WOAHP Reference Laboratories for Equine*

*Influenza in 2022 and 2024.*

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
WOAH expert surveillance panel on equine influenza vaccine composition	Evaluation of vaccine efficacy against recently circulating strains	Irish Equine Centre, Gluck Equine Research Center, University of Kentucky

## 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?

Yes

Purpose for inter-laboratory test comparisons <sup>1</sup>	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAH Member Countries
Assessing competency and quality assurance for Haemagglutination Inhibition and conventional RT-PCR	Organiser and participant	1	Haemagglutination Inhibition, conventional RT-PCR	JAPAN,

## TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
Revision of WOA Manual Chapter	E-mail	Equine influenza

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

No