

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2024

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LABORATORY INFORMATION

*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOA Reference Laboratory:	Rabies
*Address of laboratory:	WOAH Reference Laboratory for Rabies Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSve) Viale dell'Università, 10 35020 Legnaro (Padova), Italy
*Tel:	+390498084385
*E-mail address:	pdebenedictis@izsvenezie.it
Website:	https://www.izsvenezie.it/
*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Paola De Benedictis, DVM, PhD, Head of Laboratory for emerging viral zoonoses
*Name (including Title and Position) of WOA Reference Expert:	Paola De Benedictis, DVM, PhD, Head of Laboratory for emerging viral zoonoses
*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 WOA Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
Indirect diagnostic tests		Nationally	Internationally
Fluorescent Antibody Virus Neutralisation Test (FAVN)	Yes	5058	525
Direct diagnostic tests		Nationally	Internationally
Direct fluorescent antibody (DFA)	Yes	1399	0

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RT-PCR	Yes	2	0
Real-time RT-PCR(rRT-PCR)	Yes	533	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
anti-WCBV hyperimmune serum	RFFIT - Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test	41 ml	0	0,2 ml (1 vial)	1	FRANCE,
anti-WCBV hyperimmune serum	RFFIT - Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test	41 ml	0	0,2 ml (1 vial)	1	AUSTRIA,
anti- LLEBV hyperimmune serum	RFFIT - Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test	50 ml	0	0,2 ml (1 vial)	1	FRANCE,
anti-ARAV hyperimmune serum	RFFIT - Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test	52 ml	0	0,2 ml (1 vial)	1	AUSTRIA,
anti-MOKV hyperimmune serum	RFFIT - Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test	63 ml	0	0,2 ml (1 vial)	1	AUSTRIA,
anti-KHUV hyperimmune serum	RFFIT - Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test	60 ml	0	0,2 ml (1 vial)	1	AUSTRIA,
Positive control (PDP VIR 027 - Direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) test for rabies diagnosis (WOAH - Manual for Terrestrial Animals Cap 3.1.18 par B.1.3.1.i 2018))	DFA - Direct fluorescent antibody	41 slides	40 slides	0	1	ITALY,

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOA Members?

No

TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

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

Yes

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

Yes

Name of the new test or diagnostic method developed	Description and References (Publication, website, etc.)
Rabies end-point RT-PCR and real-time RT-PCR LN34 using lyophilized reagent	Drzewnioková P., Brian I., Mancin M., Fortin A., Gourlaouen M., Angot A., Niang M., Dah I., Berete K., Diakite A., Tall Lo F., Meseko C., Go-Maró E., D'Amico V., Valastro V., Soumare B., De Benedictis P., Monne I., Panzarin V.(2025) Validation and multi-site deployment of a lyophilized qRT-PCR reagent for the molecular diagnosis of avian influenza and rabies in Sub-Saharan African regions. bioRxiv 2025.01.16.633398; doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.01.16.633398 (preprint)

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

No

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

No

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

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

No

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

Yes

Name of the WOAHP Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
UKRAINE	Hands-on laboratory training for four Scientists working at 4 Veterinary Laboratories	Laboratory training and remote assistance
UKRAINE	Revision of SOPs to implement molecular diagnosis of animal rabies cases	Remotely, revision of documents
YEMEN	Virtual Laboratory Training on Rabies	Remote consultancy

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

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)	WOAHP Member Countries involved other than your
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				country
OneBAT - HE OneBAT (OneHealth Approach to Understand, Predict and Prevent viral emergencies from bats) GA number 101095712 https://onebat.eu/	2023-2026	Harmonising the tools and knowledge at a European level to investigate the role of the bat <i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i> as reservoir of emerging pathogens, including divergent lyssaviruses	13	BELGIUM CYPRUS FRANCE HUNGARY ITALY SPAIN UKRAINE UNITED KINGDOM UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FAO – IZSVE Letter of Agreement PO 368312	2023-2025	Laboratory Services on rabies, including training, proficiency testing, support of regional networks, provision of expertise, confirmatory diagnosis rabies in support of beneficiary countries	FAO - The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	BENIN BURKINA FASO CAMEROON CONGO (DEM. REP. OF THE) COTE D'IVOIRE EGYPT ETHIOPIA GHANA GUINEA KAZAKHSTAN KENYA MALI MOZAMBIQUE NIGERIA SENEGAL SIERRA LEONE ZAMBIA

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

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:

Collection of samples for the IZSve veterinary biobank, which is part of the national network of veterinary biobanks 'Biowarehouse' coordinated by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia ed Emilia Romagna (IZSLER) and recognized by the WOA?H as an official collaboration center.

The Italian Ministry of Health commissioned the RL to implement an emergency surveillance plan divided in two main areas, i.e. active and passive surveillance, to identify the dynamics for the spillover of WCBV to bats. The surveillance plan was released in August 2020 and is still ongoing.

In the framework of the HE OneBAT project (One Health approach to understand, predict and prevent viral emergencies from bats -GA number 101095712) the IZVSe is coordinating an active surveillance of *Miniopterus schreibersii* across Europe. This surveillance aims to evaluate the spread of circulating divergent lyssaviruses in the host species . Currently, data are being collected into a project webportal, which can be accessible to stakeholders upon request.

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:

- The RL is the Italian contact point for the Rabies Bulletin Europe, a platform administrated by the WHO CC for Rabies at the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI -Germany); data are provided by the network of the Istituti Zooprofilattici and transferred into the platform; these epidemiological data are then made accessible on the web at the following <http://www.who-rabies-bulletin.org/>
- The RL is also the national correspondent for rabies data collection in the SINZOO platform (National Zoonoses Information System) within the Veterinary Information Systems portal of the Ministry of Health. Data are then sent to the EFSA. <https://www.vetinfo.it/>;
- The RL provides the EURL for rabies (ANSES, France) with data related to the analyses carried out within the national surveillance programmes for rabies control. This is achieved through "The Annual Questionnaire for the National Reference Laboratories for Rabies".;
- In the context HE OneBAT project (GA number 101095712), preliminary data on the extent of WCBV/LLEBV circulation have been made available online: Leopardi, S. et al. "European distribution and intramuscular pathogenicity of divergent lyssaviruses West Caucasian bat virus and Lleida bat lyssavirus." iScience (2025).
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589004224029651>
- The RL provided support to EFSA and to ECDC in drafting and reviewing the chapter on rabies for "The European Union One Health 2023 Zoonoses Report" <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal>

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:

3

1. Castellan M., Zamperin G., Foiani G., Zorzan M., Priore M.F., Drzewnioková P., Melchiotti E., Vascellari M., Monne I., Crovella S., Leopardi S., De Benedictis P. (2024) Immunological findings of West Caucasian bat virus in an accidental host. *Journal Of Virology* 2025
<https://doi.org/10.1128/jvi.01914-24>
2. Fehlner-Gardiner C, Gongal G, Tenzin T, Sabeta C, De Benedictis P, Rocha SM, Vargas A, Cediel-Becerra N, Gomez LC, Maki J, Rupprecht CE. (2024) Rabies in Cats-An Emerging Public Health Issue. *Viruses*. 2024 Oct 19;16(10):1635. doi: 10.3390/v16101635. PMID: 39459967; PMCID: PMC11512395.
3. Leopardi S., Dacheux L., Serra-Cobo J., Ábrahám Á., Bajić B., Bourhy H., Bücs S., Budinski I., Castellan M., Drzewniokova P. (2025) European distribution and intramuscular pathogenicity of divergent lyssaviruses West Caucasian bat virus and Lleida bat lyssavirus. *iScience* DOI: 10.1016/j.isci.2024.111738

b) International conferences:

6

1. Drzewnioková P., Brian I., Mancin M., Fortin A., Gourlaouen M., Angot A., Nang M., Dah I., Berete K., Diakite A., Tall Lo F., Meseko C., Go-Maró E, D'Amico V., Valastro V., De Benedictis P., Monne I. & Panzarin V. (2024). Validation and multi-site deployment of a lyophilized qRT-PCR reagent for the molecular diagnosis of avian influenza and rabies in Sub-Saharan African regions. EAVLD 2024: 7th Congress of the European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, Padova, Italy, 21-23/10/2024
2. Castellan, M., Priore, M.F., Gasparotto, M., Zecchin, B., Zorzan, M., Dias De Melo, G., Drzewniokova, P., M., Festa, F., Cacco, V., Angelini, A., Cendron, L., Bourhy, H. & De Benedictis, P. (2024). Heterologous and homologous Fc-FcγR interactions and implications for rabies

post-exposure prophylaxis. World One Health Congress 2024, Cape Town, South Africa 20-23/09/2024

3. Festa, F., Scaravelli, D., Cosentino, F., De Benedictis, P., Maiorano, L., Leopardi, S. (2024). Urban habits of the bent-winged bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*) in Italy 7th European Congress of Conservation Biology- ECCB 2024. Bologna, 17-21/06/2024

4. Festa, F., Scaravelli, D., Cosentino, F., De Benedictis, P., Maiorano, L., Leopardi, S. (2024). Urban habits of the bent-winged bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*) in Italy 16th European Bat Research Symposium- EBR2024. Tarragona (Spain), 2-7/09/2024

5. Festa, F., Scaravelli, D., Cosentino, F., De Benedictis, P., Maiorano, L., Leopardi, S. (2024). Urban habits of the bent-winged bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*) in Italy 15th European Wildlife Disease Conference- EWDC 2024. Stralsund (Germany), 9-14/09/2024

6. Zago M., Mascarello G., Pinto A., Bernardini M., Mazzotta E., De Benedictis P., Crovato S. (2024) Comparing apples to oranges: using social research to harmonize veterinary clinic diagnostic practices. EAVLD 2024, Congress of the European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. 21-23 October 2024. Published on Italian Journal of Food Safety. 13, 4 (Dec. 2024).

DOI:<https://doi.org/10.4081/ijfs.2024.13488>.

c) National conferences:

1

1. Mazzotta, E., Bernardini, M., Natale, A., Zago, M., Crovato, S., Campalto, M., Marchione, S., Fornasiero, D., Vascellari, M., Brocherel, G., Lelli, D., Leopardi, S., De Benedictis, P. (2024). Lyssavirus nel gatto: progetto CONNETTI-CAT e rafforzamento della sorveglianza sindromica. Congresso Internazionale SCIVAC 2024 proceedings, poster, pp. 583–584. Rimini, 24-26/05/2024

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

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Preprint article (2)

1. Castellan M., Zamperin G., Foiani G., Zorzan M., Priore M.F., Drzewnioková P., Melchiotti E., Vascellari M., Monne I., Crovella S., Leopardi S., De Benedictis P. (2024) Immunological findings of West Caucasian bat virus in an accidental host. bioRxiv :2024.09.12.612599.

2. Drzewnioková P., Brian I., Mancin M., Fortin A., Gourlaouen M., Angot A., Niang M., Dah I., Berete K., Diakite A., Tall Lo F., Meseko C., Go-Maró E., D'Amico V., Valastro V., Soumare B., De Benedictis P., Monne I., Panzarin V. (2025) Validation and multi-site deployment of a lyophilized qRT-PCR reagent for the molecular diagnosis of avian influenza and rabies in Sub-Saharan African regions. bioRxiv 2025.01.16.633398; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.01.16.633398>

Training courses organized by IZSVE at National level (5):

1. IZSVE's research Activities funded by the Ministry of Health: Projects concluded in 2022.

30/06/2023-29/06/2024

<https://www.izsvenezie.it/corso-ecm-online-ricerca-corrente-izsve-2022/>

2. Rabies and Lyssavirus: Annual update for the National network of veterinary laboratories, 25/10/2024

<https://www.izsvenezie.it/documenti/formazione/corsi-convegni/2024/2024-10-25-aggiornamento-rabbia/programma.pdf>

3. Webinar / Rabies and lyssavirus: annual update in One Health perspective 13/12/2024

<https://www.izsvenezie.it/webinar-ecm-rabbia-lyssavirus-one-health-2024/>

4. Internship for thesis completion: Activities in bat colonies for the placement of camera traps. Starting from September 2024

5. Internship for thesis completion: Activities carried out in the framework of Research Project IZSve 07/22 "Lyssavirus in cats: a real risk or a coincidence? (CONNECT-CAT)" designed to assess exposure to lyssaviruses in owned cats.

International training courses, presentations as invited speakers (2):

1. "Lecture on rabies diagnosis" - lecture given during the 8th course on Surveillance and Control of Rabies – Zimbabwe 2-11/12/2024, organized by the Pasteur Institute-Paris.

<https://research.pasteur.fr/en/course/international-course-on-surveillance-and-control-of-rabieszimbabwe-2-to-12-december-2024/>

2. "Lecture on rabies diagnosis" - lecture given during Second edition of the MOOC ON RABIES, promoted by the Institut Pasteur of Cambodia and the Pasteur Network (online course available from 01/10/2024 to 31/09/2025)

<https://www.fun-mooc.fr/en/courses/rabies/>

Tutor at the hands-on training sessions in the frame on the OneBat Project (One Health approach to understand, predict and prevent viral emergencies from bats - GA number 101095712):

1. Topic: sampling from bats. Organized for Cyprus beneficiaries, 9-12 July 2024;

2. Topic: placement of subcutaneous microchips in bats. Organized in Italy for Hungarian beneficiaries, 3 July 2024.

<https://onebat.eu/>

Links from IZSve's web site (6):

1) National Reference Centre / WOA Reference Laboratory / FAO Reference Centre for Rabies <https://www.izsvenezie.com/reference-laboratories/rabies/>

2) IZSVE's contribution to OneBAT Project (One Health approach to understand, predict and prevent viral emergencies from bats - GA number 101095712): A One Health approach to the study and prevention of bat-borne viral emergencies

<https://www.izsvenezie.com/onebat-project/>

3) World Rabies Day 2024: breaking the boundaries

<https://www.izsvenezie.com/world-rabies-day-2024/>

4) IZSve supports Ukraine to implement rabies diagnosis

<https://www.izsvenezie.com/izsve-supports-ukraine-implement-rabies-diagnosis/>

5) Viruses and bats: a dangerous liaison? [Video]

<https://www.izsvenezie.com/viruses-bats-dangerous-liaison/>

6) IZSve designated as a WOA Reference Laboratory for Rabies

<https://www.izsvenezie.com/izsve-designated-woah-reference-laboratory-for-rabies/>

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

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

Yes

a) Technical visit : 1

b) Seminars : 0

c) Hands-on training courses: 16

d) Internships (>1 month) 0

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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
A	SERBIA	1
C	CYPRUS	10
C	HUNGARY	2
C	UKRAINE	4

TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17025:2018	Certificate of Accreditation	17025.pdf
UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17043:2010	Certificate of Accreditation	17043.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
PDP VIR 034 Lyssavirus identification and typing through one step RT-PCR and Sanger sequencing	ACCREDIA – Italian Accreditation System
PDP VIR 035 Rilevazione di RNA di Lyssavirus mediante Real Time RT-PCR (rRT-PCR)	ACCREDIA – Italian Accreditation System
PDP VIR 027 Direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) test for rabies diagnosis (WOAH Manual for Terrestrial Animals Cap 3.1.19 par B.1.3.1.i 2023)	ACCREDIA – Italian Accreditation System
PDP VIR 029 Rabies virus isolation in cell culture test (WOAH Manual for Terrestrial Animals Cap 3.1.19 par B.1.3.2.i 2023)	ACCREDIA – Italian Accreditation System
PDP IMM 045 Virus neutralisation test in cell culture: fluorescent antibody virus neutralisation test (FAVN) (WOAH Manual for Terrestrial Animals Cap. 3.1.19 par. B.2.1 2023)	ACCREDIA – Italian Accreditation System
Proficiency testing provider	ACCREDIA – Italian Accreditation System

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

Yes

The RL implements biorisk management actions to prevent diseases among personnel and to protect the community from harm caused by potentially infectious pathogens. Particular attention is also paid to the safe transport management of infectious substances according to IATA guidelines and UN classification system. At IZSve, since 2013, there exists a Biosafety Committee and a Biosafety Officer (BSO) that are both responsible for the following tasks: - Evaluation of the safety risks for workers and for the environment connected to the activities to be performed under BSL3 conditions that involve the use of microorganisms, animals and Genetically Modified Microorganisms MOGM; - Evaluation of the emergency procedures - Evaluation of all the management and operative

procedures to be applied inside the BSL-3 laboratory and animal facilities including potential biosecurity issues. All Standard Operative Procedures (SOPs) and handling of pathogens are written and performed accordingly to the WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual (4th Ed.).

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?

No

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
WOAHP RABLAB network	Full member	1	For n° of participants and WOAHP ref. labs participants, refer to https://www.woah.org/en/disease/rabies/#ui-id-3
United Against Rabies Forum (supported by FAO, WOAHP, and WHO)	Participant	1	For n° of participants and WOAHP ref. labs participants, refer to https://www.unitedagainstrabies.org/

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?

Yes

Purpose of the proficiency test:	Role of your Reference Laboratory (organiser/ participant)	No. participating Laboratories	Participating WOAHP Ref. Labs/ organising WOAHP Ref Lab
Inter-laboratory test: evaluation of the performance characteristics of Pan-lyssavirus real-time RT-PCR - organized by the European Union Reference Laboratory for Rabies (ANSES, Nancy, France WOAHP RL for rabies)	participant	(information available at ANSES)	(information available at ANSES)
Inter-laboratory test for quality assurance of the results: virological (IF) and molecular	organiser	1	ANSES the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety

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(RT-PCR and RRT-PCR)

(WOAH RL for rabies)

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
EUOHZ_2023 ECDC meets ZOE Consortium experts Production of the "The European Union One Health 2023 Zoonoses report" (EFSA - ECDC)	Support for production of the annual EUOHZ report has been provided by the ZOE (Zoonoses under a One health perspective in the EU) Consortium's Work Package 1 1 representative from the WOAH RL provides expertise on human rabies	ANSES the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (WOAH RL for rabies)
OneBAT - HE OneBAT (OneHealth Approach to Understand, Predict and Prevent viral emergencies from bats) GA number 101095712 https://onebat.eu/	One Health approach to understand, predict and prevent viral emergencies from bats	ANSES the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (WOAH RL for rabies)
H2020 EVAg (European Virus Archive Global) GA number 871029 https://www.european-virus-archive.com/evag-portal-list/field_provider/izsve-7926	A non-profit global network sharing expertise in virology and aimed to preserve, produce and distribute viruses and derived products	ANSES the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (WOAH RL for rabies); the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute – Germany (WOAH RL for rabies); Animal and Plant Health Agency - APHA (WOAH RL for rabies);

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 comparisons ¹	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAH Member Countries
AQUA RV-D 2-24 National inter-laboratory trial on Rabies diagnosis https://www.izsvenezie.com/activities-services/interlaboratory-proficiency-testing/	organiser	6	Isolation and identification of rabies virus	ITALY,
AQUA RV-D 1-23 National inter-laboratory trial on Rabies diagnosis https://www.izsvenezie.com/activities-services/interlaboratory-proficiency-testing/	organiser	5	1. Identification of rabies virus 2. identification of the species host of the infection	ITALY,

Inter-laboratory trial for the diagnosis of animal rabies in the African continent 2024	organiser (the overall number of participants is 28: the first panel was sent to Namibia, the remaining ones will likely be shipped in the first trimester of 2025)	28	1. detection of viral antigens using the Direct Fluorescent Antibody (DFA) test and/or the Direct Rapid Immunohistochemical Test (DRIT) 2. detection of viral RNA by means of molecular techniques, according to the methods routinely used for diagnostic activities.	NAMIBIA,
Inter-laboratory trial for the diagnosis of animal rabies (Ethiopia)	organiser	1	Detection of viral antigens using the Direct Fluorescent Antibody (DFA) test and/or the Direct Rapid Immunohistochemical Test (DRIT)	ETHIOPIA,

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
WOAH 91st General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates	Paris, France	Participation in meeting 26-30/05/2024
United Against Rabies Forum Stakeholder Meeting	Cape Town, South Africa	Participation in meeting 20-23/09/2024
WOAH Side meeting - dog mediated rabies control and elimination - a focus on West & Central Africa	Paris, France	Participation in meeting 26/05/2024
WOAH RABLAB	Online meetings	Participation in meetings 18/01/2024 as affiliate member 21/03/2024 as affiliate member 16/05/2023/ as affiliate member 25/07/2024 as full member 12/09/2024 as full member 11/12/2024 as full member

29. Additional comments regarding your report: