

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

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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, UNITED KIN
*Tel:	+44 2080269755
*E-mail address:	john.spiropoulos@apha.gov.uk
Website:	https://science.vla.gov.uk/tseglobalnet/
*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Mr Richard Lewis
*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	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests			
ELISA/EIA	Yes	870	0
Western blot	Yes	89	0
Immunohistochemistry	Yes	1085	0
Histopathology	Yes	825	0
PET-blot	No	65	0
Direct diagnostic tests			
		Nationally	Internationally

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?

Yes

Type of reagent available	Related diagnostic test	Produced/ provide	Amount supplied nationally (ml, mg)	Amount supplied internationally (ml, mg)	No. of recipient WOAH Member Countries	Country of recipients

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Unstained section	IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY	4	0	4	1	AUSTRALIA,
Paraffin wax blocks	Histopathology and immunohistochemistry	9	0	9	1	ITALY,

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOAHA Members?

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?

No

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

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

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?

No

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
PrP genotypes in sheep with atypical scrapie (AS)		The purpose of the study is to answer two main questions: i) How rare is AS in sheep homozygous for the wild type allele (where wt means ALRQ without any other variation outside the four codons)? ii) Are there any rare mutations (other than those at codons 141 and 154) that are positively associated with AS, and if so, which ones?	It is led by the European reference laboratory (EURL) for TSEs. Participants include all EU countries and the UK.	ITALY

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?

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:

b) International conferences:

1
Poster presented at the Prion 2025 international conference.
Refining ante mortem diagnosis of classical scrapie: a case report

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 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)	
ISO/IEC 17025:2017	PDF	ISO 17025.pdf
ISO9001:2015	PDF	ANIMAL PLANT HEALTH AGENCY - Certificate UK013916 - ISO 9001 - exp. 25-07-2026.pdf
GLP	PDF	GLPStatementofCompliance_APHA_25 April 2024.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 WOAHA?

No

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

Yes

Title of event		Role (speaker, presenting poster,	

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	Date	location	short communications)	Title of the work presented
Prion 2025	2025-11-03	Rio de Janeiro	Presenting poster	Refining ante mortem diagnosis of classical scrapie: a case report

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAHP REFERENCE LABORATORIES

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

No

24. Are you a member of a network of WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

No

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
Immunohistochemistry	Participant	32	APHA, UK; Neuro Centre Department of Clinical Research and Veterinary Public Health, Switzerland / IZT, Italy
Western Blot	Participant	32	APHA, UK; Neuro Centre Department of Clinical Research and Veterinary Public Health, Switzerland / IZT, Italy
Pathology Interpretation	Participant	32	APHA, UK; Neuro Centre Department of Clinical Research and Veterinary Public Health, Switzerland / IZT, Italy

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOAHP 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 WOAHP Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

No

Although the exact answer to this question is No our laboratory has assisted the commercial laboratory which runs the rapid surveillance test in UK to validate another commercial kit and eventually switch supplier.

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

No

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

No

This WOAHP scrapie reference laboratory has also produced and provided via VETQAS Proficiency Testing (APHA's independent, accredited, proficiency testing service)

15 PT rounds to 8 WOAHP member countries for ELISA validation,

2 PT rounds to 1 WOAHP member countries for western blot validation and

3 PT rounds to 3 WOAHP member countries for PrP genotyping.

The WOAHP reference laboratory was involved in tissue production, data interpretation and provided technical advice whenever it was required.