

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

This report has been submitted: 31 janvier 2026 17:58

LABORATORY INFORMATION

*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOA Reference Laboratory:	Contagious agalactia
*Address of laboratory:	Department of Bacteriology, Animal and Plant Health Agency (Weybridge), Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey. KT15 3NB. United Kingdom
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Website:	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency
*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Dr Richard Lewis
*Name (including Title and Position) of WOA Reference Expert:	Dr Anne Ridley, Mycoplasma National Reference Laboratory Lead and Exotic Bacteria Workgroup Lead
*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	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests			
Mycoplasma agalactiae ELISA	Yes	0	0
Mycoplasma mycoides subsp. capri CFT	Yes	0	0
Mycoplasma capricolum subsp. capricolum CFT	Yes	0	0
Direct diagnostic tests			
Mycoplasma species PCR DGGE	Yes	212	7
Mycoplasma agalactiae PCR	Yes	19	1
Mycoplasma mycoides subsp. capri PCR	Yes	2	0
Mycoplasma capricolum subsp. capricolum PCR	Yes	2	0
Mycoplasma putrefaciens PCR	Yes	3	6
Mycoplasma species culture	Yes	212	7

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
antigen	M. mycoides subsp. capri CFT	provide	1ml	0	1	UNITED KINGDOM,
antigen	M capricolum subsp. capricolum	provide	1ml	0	1	UNITED KINGDOM,
antiserum	M. capricolum subsp. capricolum	produced	40 ml	0	1	UNITED KINGDOM,

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

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

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 WOA?H Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

Yes

Name of the new test or diagnostic method developed	Description and References (Publication, website, etc.)
qPCR for M. mycoides subsp capri and M. capricolum subsp capricolum	however validation work is still ongoing

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

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

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

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

Yes

Name of WOA?H Member Country seeking assistance	Date	Which diagnostic test used	No. samples received for provision of diagnostic support	No. samples received for provision of confirmatory diagnoses
AUSTRALIA	2025-08-27	M putrefaciens PCR	6	0

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
AUSTRALIA	In relation to methodology regarding testing for absence of Mycoplasma putrefaciens in specific sample types	email

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

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

Yes

				WOA?H Member Countries

Anne Ridley - - UNITED_KINGDOM

Title of the study	Duration	Purpose of the study	Partners (Institutions)	involved other than your country
developing effective control strategies for Mycoplasma agalactiae disease incursion - ensuring tools and capability to detect threats and reduce disease risk from incursions	4 year	understanding effectiveness of disinfection, understanding survival capacity of M agalactiae in pasture and developing improved qPCRs	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia	ITALY

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

Yes

Research need : 1

Please type the Research need: Particularly emphasised through additional work in revising the Contagious Agalactia chapter of the WOA Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals was the need for easy to use and highly specific improved rapid molecular detection / identification tests for members of the Mycoplasma mycoides cluster that cause contagious agalactia mainly in goats. Ideally these would then be translated into more field friendly platforms in countries and regions thereof where infections in goats is common and significantly under-reported in large part as the diagnostic tools remain a challenge. CFT as a test also suffers from cross reactivity, but challenges remain in finding and validating highly specific immunogenic targets for these organisms and while WGS data is accumulating annotation of gene functions remains poor.

Relevance for WOA Disease Control, Capacity Building,

Relevance for the Code or Manual Manual,

Field Epidemiology and Surveillance, Diagnostics,

Animal Category Terrestrial,

Disease:

Kind of disease (Zoonosis, Transboundary diseases) Transboundary diseases,

If any, please specify relevance for Codes or Manual, chapter and title

(e.g. Terrestrial Manual Chapter 2.3.5 - Minimum requirements for aseptic production in vaccine manufacture)

Answer: Terrestrial manual Chapter 3.8.3 - tests for disease diagnosis - real-time PCR

Notes:

Answer:

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:

Passive surveillance data relevant for contagious agalactia and other mycoplasmas exotic to the United Kingdom. Additionally thin ewe mastitis project where additional surveillance was undertaken to ensure contagious agalactia agents were absent.

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

Articles were published that had relevance to, but not specifically on contagious agalactia e.g. Jay et al (including Ridley A) Advancing standardisation of diagnostics and

antimicrobial susceptibility testing for pathogenic mycoplasmas of livestock origina: insights from MyMIC network. BMC Vet Res. 2025. 21:712

b) International conferences:

0

Not an International organisation for Mycoplasma conference year. Attendance at at least two international conferences anticipated in 2027.

c) National conferences:

2

Great Britain Ruminant Health Day Conference : invited speaker H Hudson. February 11-12, Plymouth, Devon

Veterinary Investigation Officer Conference: A Ridley invited speaker "exotic mycoplasmas of small ruminants with emphasis on contagious agalactia: an update and current knowledge gaps". 17-18 June, Birmingham, UK.

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)	
ISO17025:2017	PDF	UKAS Certificate dec 25.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
PCR-DGGE for Mycoplasma species (includes contagious agalactia organisms)	UKAS
organisms specific PCR for exotic Mycoplasma species (includes contagious agalactia organisms)	UKAS
Mycoplasma species culture	UKAS
Mycoplasma agalactiae ELISA	UKAS
CFT for Mycoplasma capricolum subsp. capricolum	UKAS
CFT for Mycoplasma mycoides subsp. capri	UKAS
Immunoblot for exotic mycoplasma species, includes M. agalactiae, M. mycoides subsp. capri, M. capricolum subsp. capricolum, M. putrefaciens	UKAS

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

Yes

Contagious agalactia is a disease exotic to Great Britain and as such two of the disease agents are listed under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) which is legislation in Great Britain that regulates the use of specified animal pathogens. APHA holds a SAPO licence that authorises holding of SAPO agents and carriers.

Laboratory work on SAPO organisms is undertaken in laboratories meeting a minimum of SAPO2 containment requirements. All work is subject to regularly reviewed risk

assessments.

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

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOAHP REF. LABS
Contagious agalactia	co revisers of updated WOAHP Terrestrial manual chapter for contagious agalactia	3	IZS Palermo, Sicily Italy
Contagious agalactia	collaborators - meeting to discuss interlaboratory proficiency panels for international distribution	4	IZS Palermo Sicily
Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia	participant - serology distribution; validation of new cELISA	12	Organised by CIRAD, France

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
Mycoplasma agalactiae ELISA (serology)	Organiser	2	IZS Palermo

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?

Yes

Title of the project or contract	Scope	Name(s) of relevant WOAHP Reference Laboratories
Exotic Mycoplasma Species: Improving capability to detect, identify and control disease and assess transmission risk"	1. effective farm level disinfection 2. survival in pasture 3. molecular tools for viability 4. Improving proficiency panels for contagious agalactia (molecular and serological) - interlaboratory exchange of materials. 5. contagious agalactia: gap analysis (discontools)	IZS Palermo, Sicily

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?

Yes

Purpose for inter-laboratory test comparisons ¹	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAHP Member Countries
M agalactiae serology	Organiser	2	M. agalactiae ELISA	UNITED KINGDOM,

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
Review of WOA?H Manual / Code	on line	Revision of WOA?H Terrestrial Manual Chapter 3.3.3

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

Less activity than planned in relation to collaborative work leading to publications with partner WOA?H Contagious Agalactia Reference Laboratory in the present year, with just one visit made by APHA, but several activities are now underway in relation to progressing developing of interlaboratory proficiency schemes for PCR and serology for M. agalactiae. In additions some discussions to provide some training activities with other countries (in Africa) have been had, but not yet implemented.