

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

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LABORATORY INFORMATION

*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOA Reference Laboratory:	Ovine epididymitis
*Address of laboratory:	Department of Bacteriology, APHA, Woodham Lane, Addlestone, Surrey, UNITED KINGDOM
*Tel:	+44-1932 35.76.10
*E-mail address:	Adrian.Whatmore@apha.gov.uk
Website:	www.apha.gov.uk
*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Dr Richard Lewis
*Name (including Title and Position) of WOA Reference Expert:	Dr Adrian Whatmore, Head of Bacteriology
*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			
Complement Fixation test	Yes	753	21
Direct diagnostic tests			
Primary bacterial culture	Yes	2011	274
Real time PCR	Yes	0	2
MLST	Yes	0	34
MLVA	Yes	0	34
Whole genome sequencing	No	0	34

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

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

Yes

Type of reagent available	Related diagnostic testing	Produced/ imported	Quantity supplied nationwide (ml, mg)	Quantity supplied at international level (ml, mg)	Name of beneficiary WOA Member Countries

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

Yes

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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
Negative serum	Various	Produced	91ml	8ml	4	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, ITALY, POLAND, SWITZERLAND,
B. ovis positive serum	Various	Produced	6ml	0ml	1	UNITED KINGDOM,
B. ovis antigen	Various	Produced	900ml	0ml	1	UNITED KINGDOM,

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOA Member Countries?

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 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 WOA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOA Member Countries?

Yes

Name of WOA 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
FINLAND	2025-01-01	CFT	28	0
KENYA	2025-01-01	Culture	245	0
UNITED KINGDOM	2025-01-01	Support to Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Culture/CFT	52	0

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

No

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

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

Yes

Title of the study	Duration	Purpose of the study	Partners (Institutions)	WOAH Member Countries involved other than your country
Role of Camels in the Transmission of Brucella spp and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus to Humans in Kenya.	4 years.	To protect human and animal health by describing and quantifying the transmission dynamics of Brucella spp and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERSCoV) and developing a robust brucellosis prevention and control model for Kenya.	Defence Threat Reduction Agency – USA; Washington State University; Kenyan Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).	KENYA UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
			UK International Biological	

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Supporting the Safe and Effective Control of Brucellosis in Africa.	3 years.	Capacity building	Security Programme (IBSP), veterinary and public health laboratories in Rwanda (University of Rwanda; Rwandan Agriculture Board) and Tanzania (Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute; Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology), Penn State University (USA).	KENYA RWANDA TANZANIA UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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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:

Whole genome sequencing of historical B.ovis isolates from strain collection, for the purposes of molecular epidemiology

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:

2

See APHA abortus, melitensis, suis report. Publications are often cross-cutting and relevant to multiple Brucella species.

b) International conferences:

7

See APHA abortus, melitensis, suis report. Presentations are often cross-cutting and relevant to multiple Brucella species.

c) National conferences:

1

See APHA abortus, melitensis, suis report. Presentations are often cross-cutting and relevant to multiple Brucella species.

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

2

Curator of Brucella multilocus sequencing typing (MLST) international database. Tool originally developed by APHA and now very widely used globally to type Brucella. Curated by Adrian Whatmore/Roland Ashford. <https://pubmlst.org/brucella/>

Adrian Whatmore also a curator of MLVA database (alternative typing tool best suited to local epidemiology). <http://mlva.i2bc.paris-saclay.fr/brucella/>

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	APHA UKAS ISO17025 Certificate dec 25.pdf	APHA UKAS ISO17025 Certificate dec 25.pdf
ISO9001:2015	ANIMAL PLANT HEALTH AGENCY - Certificate UK013916 - ISO 9001 - exp. 25-07-2026.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
CFT	UKAS (ISO17025-2017)
Bacterial isolation	UKAS (ISO17025-2017)
Phenotypic characterisation (biotyping)	UKAS (ISO17025-2017)
Real time PCR	UKAS (ISO17025-2017)

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

Yes

APHA complies with UK Health & Safety Executive (HSE) working standards and all current UK regulations around human and animal pathogens.

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

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

No

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

Yes

Title of event	Date	location	Role (speaker, presenting poster, short communications)	Title of the work presented
Control of animal and zoonotic diseases in the Gulf Cooperation Council States.	2025-06-15	Kuwait City	Speaker	(1) Overview of the global and regional brucellosis situation (2) Brucella: Laboratory needs and challenges.

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOA REFERENCE LABORATORIES

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

Yes

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

No

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOA 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 WOA Ref. Labs/ organising WOA Ref Lab
VETQAS PT0187 Brucella PCR	Organiser and participant	2	APHA Weybridge, UK IZS, Italy

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?

No

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 ¹	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAH Member Countries
VETQAS PT0024 Assess laboratory capability for Brucella ovis CFT	Organizer/Participant	1	B. ovis CFT	
VETQAS PT0187 Assess laboratory capability for Brucella PCR	Organizer/Participant	13	Brucella PCR	

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

No

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

Note that many technical, training and consultancy activities are generic for Brucella and thus, while primarily captured in the APHA Brucella abortus, Brucella melitensis, Brucella suis report, may include B. ovis activities.