



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Activities Report 2018

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Laboratory transition

- Following the United Kingdom intended withdrawal from the EU, the functions of the TSE EURL were transferred to the consortium IZSTO, Torino / ISS-SANV, Roma- Italy from 1st of January 2019
- We held our final meeting as EURL in July 2018
- Update of the completion of the year and transition activities



1. Creation and Maintenance of reference materials

- 3 external requests for frozen tissue completed
- 5 reference sample panels prepared for EQA – used for 2018 PT distributions and for follow up PT rounds. 1 reference sample panel prepared for batch testing.
- Animal challenges set up for future supply of key tissues – implanted AHQ/AHQ and ARQ/ARQ embryos for material to be available in 2020



2. External Quality Assurance

- Details in next presentations

3. Strain typing/discrimination

- Bioassays have been initiated from a moose TSE case from Finland which was confirmed by the EURL



4. Scientific advice & training

- **Communications** –TSE-LAB-NET updates, contacts, annual technical report, annual financial report - Completed
 - **Test kit changes & Batch testing** – ongoing EURL activity, manufacturer & user demand driven. Several proposed modifications to the approved test kits were initiated during 2018 (*more details given within EQA presentation*)
 - **Annual Rapid test kit IFU review & manufacturers quality system review** – Completed
 - **Referral /confirmatory diagnostics** – 2 new referrals from a MS for one ovine case and one bovine case. In both instances, the frozen material was considered unsuitable for Western-blot confirmatory testing.
 - **Missions – to Italy for transition work**
 - **Provision of advice and training/ sample material** material/assistance to 5 TSE NRLs during 2018.
 - **Annual Workshop** – completed in July 2018. The feedback from participants was very positive with regard to workshop content, the venue and facilities
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Windsor July 2018



TSE EURL – Transition Activities

1. Transition Workshops
2. Training Sessions
3. Transfer of reference material
4. Transfer of historical data, protocols & guidance



1. Transition Workshops

8-9th October 2018 (APHA, UK)

- To present the work and activities completed up to date.
- Identify the gaps based on current knowledge and expertise.
- Communicate and discuss the ways of sharing information/material and knowledge using appropriate pathways.



11-12th December 2018 (IZSTO, Italy)

- Discuss 2019 scientific work plan and financial arrangements

14th December 2018 (APHA, UK)

- Sign off by TSE EURL directors



2. Training Sessions (APHA, UK)

9th October

Management of EURL EQA activities – *three groups*: Rapid-testing (RT), Histopathology & Western blotting (WB)
Bioassay and animal studies
Genotyping (including lab tour)

28-29th November

Running of Proficiency Testing schemes for RT & WB
Troubleshooting underperformance
Management of Rapid test Batch approvals
Management of manufacturers' test kit changes
Preparation of reference material – *including lab demo*
Tour of laboratories and TSE biological archive

14th December

Financial management of EU projects
Preparedness for responding to EU finance audits

3. Transfer of Reference Material

- To support Proficiency Testing & Batch Testing for a minimum of 1 year.

Sample type	Reference	Amount
Blood – genotype ALHQ/ALHQ	PG0115/13	30mL
Blood – genotype ALRR/ALRR	PG0117/13	30mL
Blood – genotype ALRQ/AFRQ	PG0122/13	30mL
Blood – genotype VLRQ/VLRQ	PG0144/13	30mL
Blood – genotype ARQ/ARH	PG0736/07 07-1130	30mL
Blood – genotype AFRQ/VLRQ	R246	35mL
Blood – genotype ALRR/VLRQ	S161	35mL
Blood – genotype AFRQ/AFRQ	PG0114/13	30mL
Wax block - Bovine BSE positive obex	18/40999-01	2
Wax block - Bovine BSE negative obex	18/40999-01	2
Wax block - Ovine scrapie positive obex	18/40995-01	2
Wax block - Ovine scrapie negative obex	18/40995-01	2
Wax block - Ovine scrapie positive lymph node	18/41001-01	2
Wax block - Ovine scrapie negative lymph node	18/41001-01	2
Wax block - Atypical scrapie obex	11/00189-01	2
Wax block - Atypical scrapie cerebellum	11/00189-01	2
Reference Stained Sections	Slides	30
Tissue - Bovine BSE positive brainstem	TS5700	750g
Tissue - Bovine TSE negative brainstem	TS5700	750g
Tissue - Ovine Scrapie Positive brainstem	TS5700	500g
Tissue - Ovine TSE negative brainstem	TS5700	500g
Tissue - Ovine BSE positive brainstem	SE1846, SE1945-46, EU0105, EU0205	150g
Tissue - Caprine Scrapie Positive brainstem	TS5700, SE1956	300g
Tissue - Caprine Scrapie negative brainstem	TS5700, SE1956	300g

4. Transfer of Data, Protocols & Guidance

- All key standard operating protocols and supporting information via a data transfer agreement to protect commercially sensitive information
- Member States' NRL contacts lists
- 2018 representative PT results and reports
- 2018 records for TSE rapid test kit batch testing portfolio
- 2018 kit manufacturers test kit changes request portfolio
- Representative EURL annual outputs and reports
- On-going support and advice



- APHA is still OIE reference laboratory for BSE and Scrapie
- TSE-LAB-NET has been rebranded and adapted to our international remit and is now accessible as:



TSEglobalNet

Enhancing global animal TSE networks



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