

SRUC Veterinary Services (VS) Policy on using samples submitted to our diagnostic service and health schemes and our Policy on Reporting Results

Sample Policy

SRUC Veterinary Services (VS) Policy on using samples submitted to our diagnostic service and health schemes SRUC VS provides a diagnostic and consultancy service to livestock veterinary practitioners and their livestock clients as well as health schemes for the keepers of cattle, sheep and goats. Data from samples submitted for diagnostic testing are retained in strict accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and are used for national animal disease surveillance as funded by Government. Data from health scheme testing are not part of the disease surveillance system, but are likewise retained in strict accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. The output from national disease surveillance supports the on-going improvement in animal health, welfare and productivity, it helps Government direct animal disease research funding to where it is needed and is important in relation to public health and supporting international trade in livestock and associated products. We may use sample material for purposes other than the diagnostic reason for which the sample was submitted. For this we use anonymised samples, and this will always be in relation to projects carried out in order to improve our understanding of disease or our diagnostic processes. All such studies will have undergone ethical review prior to the project commencing. Any use of anonymised health scheme data and health scheme samples will only be for the purposes of improving test procedures; assessing progress of control objectives; and carrying out analyses to improve the health scheme programmes and are therefore of benefit to the members of the health schemes. We will maintain a list of on-going research and test validation projects and these can be found below. We undertake to ensure that the strict confidential nature of all interactions between veterinary surgeons and their clients is maintained throughout everything we do.

	Section	Project / validation name	Brief description
1	Microbiology	MALDI validation work	Ongoing use of isolates for MALDI validation
2	Microbiology	E.coli septicaemia in 3-6 month old calves	Novel septicaemia investigation
3	Microbiology	Epidemiology of Klebsiella sp mastitis	WGS study characterising Klebsiella isolates
4	Microbiology	Brachyspira MIC	Commercial product trial using field strains
5	Microbiology/Vets	Listeria WGS	Collaboration with UofE looking at genetic diversity
6	Microbiology	Streptococcus uberis WGS	Collaboration with UofE looking at genetic diversity
7	Microbiology	EUCAST AST validation	Use of field strains for validation
8	Instrumental Chemistry	BluVision Validation	Use of samples to validate instrument
9	Instrumental Chemistry	ICP-OES validation	Use of samples to compare method with old instrument.
10	Instrumental Chemistry	NIR validation	Use of samples to compare method with old instrument.
11	Parasitology	BOCOSP validation	Collaboration with Techion for BOCOSP software and QA ring trial
12	Molecular Biology	BVDV/BDV new PCR kit validation	Use of samples submitted for BVD PCR and Border Disease PCR testing to validate new kit and compare with existing test methods
13	Molecular Biology	Brachyspira real-time PCR method	Use of samples submitted for Brachyspira testing to validate a real-time PCR test for pathogenic strains and compare with existing tests.
14	Molecular Biology	Lawsonia real-time PCR method	Use of samples submitted for <i>Lawsonia intracellularis</i> PCR testing to validate a real-time PCR test and compare with existing nested PCR method.
15	Molecular Biology	Respiratory multiplex tandem PCR (MT-PCR)	Use of samples submitted for <i>M. bovis</i> PCR and Respiratory multiplex (BRSV/BovHV/PI3) PCR testing to complete validation for UKAS accreditation of the MT-PCR test (RESPCREX) and compare results with existing tests.
16	Classical Chemistry	Primacs elemental analyser	Use of sample to compare method with old instrument
17	Serology +Micro	Toxo ELISA ETS	Validation of new ELISA test for toxoplasmosis in serum and foetal fluids with a view to replacing the IFAT test for foetal testing
18	Serology	Various IQC samples	IQC samples are made from previously tested diagnostic/HS samples. IQC samples used for monitoring kit performance and trend analysis for all our ELISA tests
19	Serology	PRRS ID Vet ELISA Validation	Previously tested samples for PRRS are being tested on a new ELISA with view that this can be used as the second tier confirmatory test as opposed to the more costly IPMA test.
20	Biochemistry	Veterinary cortisol validation	Use of samples to compare method with current human cortisol kit
21	PM sites	Ovine Respiratory Disease Project	Use of samples from PME to investigate causes of ORD. Collaboration with Moredun and others.

Reporting Policy

SRUC Veterinary Services (SRUC VS) operates much of its testing in compliance with the ISO 17025 standard and is accredited by UKAS. The ISO 17025 standard requires that the results of testing are verifiable and reproducible, and that records relating to each test run are kept. In order to ensure that reported results are accessible and easy to understand, SRUC VS uses simplified reports that do not include the technical details of each test run. This information may include, but is not restricted to, test methods, statements of conformity and measurement of uncertainty. Customers of SRUC VS agree to receiving these simplified reports. Technical information relating to testing carried out under ISO 17025 requirements is available on request.

SRUC Veterinary Services Management Team

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