



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

PO Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23218

www.vdacs.virginia.gov

Joseph W. Guthrie
Commissioner

January 12, 2023

This letter is supplied to the clients of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Regional Animal Health Laboratory System as evidence of the Quality Management System employed by our regional animal health laboratories (RAHLs).

Our Quality Management System conforms to all applicable requirements of ISO 17025:2017, the WOA, and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD)' document "Requirements for an Accredited Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory." Copies of the Quality Manual, the System Policy Manual, system policies, and site-specific policies are available upon request from the Office of Laboratory Services' Quality Manager.

The four RAHLs are staffed by qualified veterinarians, scientists and technicians. All laboratory testing is performed in accordance with pre-approved Standard Operating Procedures under the supervision of Microbiologist Supervisors. All laboratory personnel are properly trained and appropriately certified to perform testing. Our system employs two Veterinary Pathologists, board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, whose services are available to all four RAHLs.

Laboratory facilities are monitored to ensure proper environmental conditions for accurate and precise testing. Equipment and instrumentation are maintained and calibrated according to manufacturers' recommendations and internal procedures. Performance of reagents and media are insured through external and internal quality control testing. Copies of logs can be supplied upon request. External proficiency testing is employed when available including all applicable sample sets supplied by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL).

The VDACS Animal Health Laboratory System (VAHLS) is a wide-spectrum supplier of testing services. However, there are a few special circumstances where technical, safety, or efficiency issues warrant that the sample be directed to a subcontracting laboratory. Be assured that VDACS only subcontracts to competent laboratories and, unless the client specifies the subcontractor, VAHLS stays the responsible party. Of course, the client is always informed of any circumstance that warrants their sample being subcontracted.

We thank you for your support of our laboratory system and welcome any comments or suggestions you may have to make our services more efficient and effective. You are welcome to contact our VDACS, OLS System Quality Manager, Melinda Stuart, at (804) 920-4663 or myself for additional information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica N. Walters".

Jessica N. Walters DVM, PhD, DACPV
Program Manager, Office of Laboratory Services
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Animal and Food Industry Services
540-830-7377
Jessica.Walters@vdacs.virginia.gov