



Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

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Reviewed by Human Resources	N/A
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Sample Acceptance and Release of Results Policy

Purpose

This policy establishes the eligibility requirements for clients submitting specimens to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) and defines the authorized recipients of laboratory reports and diagnostic results.

Policy

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) provides diagnostic testing services to qualified submitters and maintains the confidentiality of laboratory results. Sample submissions and the release of laboratory information shall be managed in accordance with this policy.

Guidelines

Sample Submissions

The VDL accepts sample submissions only from the following authorized submitters:

- Licensed veterinarians
- Public health officials
- Referral laboratories
- Government agencies
- Non-governmental organizations such as those associated with environmental and/or wildlife protection/conservation.
- For domestic poultry cases originating from large production units, a designated health care professional may serve as the authorized submitter when identified as an alternative.

Research Cases

- University researchers conducting approved research projects may be listed as the referring veterinarian on research submissions.

Laboratory Reports and Results

Written laboratory reports and diagnostic results communicated by email, electronic reporting systems, or other authorized methods will be released only to the submitter or their authorized agents (e.g., office personnel, associates, or other designated staff). The same procedure applies to information or updates on cases in progress.

Release of Results to Third Parties

Laboratory results and case information will be released to individuals or organizations other than the submitting veterinarian only under one of the following circumstances:

- Upon the written request of the authorized submitter or their designee.
- In response to a valid legal subpoena or other legally required disclosure.

Anyone, other than the submitter, who contacts the VDL to request laboratory results will be directed to obtain them from the referring veterinarian or submitting party.

Exceptions

The VDL will release case information to State and Federal agencies for cases involving reportable diseases, as required by applicable state or federal laws and regulations.