

January 11, 2021

This is a letter of quality assurance for the Diagnostic Parasitology Service laboratory at University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. This laboratory subscribes to and participates in a proficiency program directed by a private company, Veterinary Laboratory Association. The proficiency program is conducted on a quarterly basis. Participating laboratories are given unknown samples to analyze and report back to the VLA administrator. VLA compiles the results in a report for the participants. This report allows for evaluation and correlation of results and techniques with the other participating laboratories. The administrator of the VLA Proficiency Program is:

Stacy Hotham  
VLA Quality Assurance System Program Coordinator for UPEI  
[http: 1/www.vlagap.org](http://www.vlagap.org)  
(902)556-0990

The Diagnostic Parasitology Service laboratory adheres to the standards specified for a Biosafety Level 2 Facility (CDC/BMBL 5th Ed). All biological safety cabinets and serologic pipettes are certified annually by outside contractors. Periodic in-house quality assurance evaluations are also conducted on all diagnostic assays, equipment, reagents, and procedures routinely used in the laboratory. A written Chemical Hygiene Plan is maintained in the laboratory that outlines all standard operating procedures using particularly hazardous chemicals. A written Biosafety Manual is maintained in the laboratory that outlines all procedures involving biological materials. These documents are updated annually or as needed throughout the calendar year. Biological safety cabinet certification is conducted under University of Tennessee requirements. The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture 's Safety Officers conduct regular safety audits.

Diagnostic Parasitology Service laboratory personnel work under the direction of Dr. John Schaefer. DVM PhD and Heidi Wyrosdick. MS (Senior Laboratory Technologist).



John Schaefer, DVM. PhD  
Director of Diagnostic Parasitology Laboratory