

January 9, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of quality assurance for the Clinical Virology laboratory in the Department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences. This laboratory subscribes to and participates in a proficiency program directed by Veterinary Laboratory Association (VLA), a private company that conducts quarterly proficiency tests. VLA compiles the results in a report for participants. This report allows for evaluation and correlation of results and techniques with other participating laboratories. The administrator of the VLA Quality Assurance Program is:

Kerri M. Blanc  
VLA-QAP Administration  
Catachem, Inc. 353 Christian Street  
Oxford, CT 06478  
USA  
Phone: (855) 838-3424  
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The Clinical Virology laboratory is certified by the United States Department of Agriculture to conduct Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins) testing. In addition, the Clinical Virology laboratory independently conducts quality control checks on equipment, antisera, cell lines, culture media, and organisms used in the laboratory.

A written Chemical Hygiene Plan is maintained in the laboratory that outlines all standard operating procedures. Biological safety cabinet certification is conducted under University of Tennessee requirements. Safety inspections are conducted by the University of Tennessee, Institute of Agriculture's Biosafety Officer.

Personnel conducting diagnostic tests in the Clinical Virology laboratory include:  
Director of Virology, Dr. Melissa Kennedy, DVM, PhD, Dr. Aaron Baumann, PhD, and Niloofar Khajeh-Kazerooni, BS, MS. Dr. Kennedy is a diplomate in the America College of Veterinary Microbiologists.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Kennedy*

Melissa Kennedy, DVM, PhD, DACVM  
Clinical Virology Laboratory Director