

January 20, 2023

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. 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. Mohamed Abouelkhair, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVM, CABMM
Aaron Shults, and Katherine Dziendziel, ASCP. Katherine is certified by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) as a Molecular Technologist. Dr. Abouelkhair is a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mohamed Abouelkhair, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVM, CABMM
Clinical Virology Laboratory Director