



# WVDL Winter Newsletter

February 2025

---



# Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

---

## Message from the Director

Hello from our team in Madison and Barron; thank you for taking the time to read our winter newsletter. I hope the winter months are going well, preparing for the busy spring and summer seasons. Spring training starts in just a few weeks, so there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We are continuing our work with the ongoing influenza A outbreak in cattle and poultry, and there is progress in the design phase for the Barron facility renovation and addition. See below for more important updates from our sections to improve your diagnostic experience.

I want to give a special shout-out to Jill Fries, who retired this January. Jill was our client services supervisor in Barron, and we are excited for her. She will now have more time for her garden and growing family. We all appreciate her hard work and dedication to WVDL and our submitting veterinarians. We will miss you in the laboratory, Jill, and hope to see you soon.



I also want to take a moment to recognize the loss of two Wisconsin Veterinarians this month. Both Dr. Ray Pawlisch and Dr. Hunter Lang were pillars of our profession and amazing people supporting their communities. They will be missed, but their legacies of service, compassion, and mentoring will live on in all of us. Thank you, Ray and Hunter, and On Wisconsin!



## Client Services

### Upcoming Fee Changes

WVDL has approved a 3% testing fee increase for fiscal year 2026, which starts on July 1, 2025. There are several components that are assessed prior to implementation of fee changes, such as pay plan/salary, consumables, and test kit costs. WVDL will review and analyzes these prior to the start of the fiscal year and will report back if any changes are required.

### Submitting Fecal Samples

WVDL offers a wide variety of fecal testing options. In order to provide the most accurate and timely results, samples need to be submitted in a clean, clear, and organized manner. Here are some guidelines from our website to assist in sample collection and submission for fecal samples.

- Please submit fecal samples in leak-proof containers. Do not use gloves or glass tubes. WVDL provides milk culture vials at no cost that can be used for fecal submissions. Please see the [Veterinary Supplies Order Form](#) on our website for more information.
- Maintain at refrigerated temperatures post collection and during transport.
- A golf ball size amount is preferred, with no less than 5 grams needed to perform testing (sheep/goats/camelids/cervids: 15 pellets minimum). If testing is required in multiple disciplines (ie. bacterial culture and molecular testing) it is recommended to send in amount listed for each testing section.
- For molecular testing of Johne's Disease fecal testing, if pooled testing is requested, submit individual samples and the lab will pool the samples upon arrival.



## Molecular Diagnostics

## Molecular Respiratory PCR Panels

Winter has arrived and with it comes the sniffles and sneezes. In order to assist with determining what could be causing these respiratory issues, WVDL offers some options for PCR testing in easy-to-order panels. WVDL also offers culture options as well. See our website for more information. WVDL also provides guidelines on nasopharyngeal swab sample collection on our website found [here](#).

### **Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) Panel (30380)**

Detection of pathogens commonly attributed to respiratory disease in bovine; includes Bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV), Bovine herpes virus Type 1 (BHV-1), Bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV), Bovine coronavirus (BCoV), *Histophilus somni*, *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Mycoplasma bovis*, and *Bibersteinia trehalosi* by real-time PCR.

### **Canine Respiratory Panel (30796)**

Detection of pathogens commonly attributed to respiratory disease in canines; includes Canine adenovirus (CAV), Canine distemper virus (CDV), Canine herpesvirus (CHV), Canine parainfluenza virus (CPIV), Canine respiratory coronavirus (CRCoV), Influenza A virus, *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, *Streptococcus equi zooepidemicus* and *Mycoplasma cynos* by real-time PCR.

### **Feline Respiratory Panel (31290)**

Detection of pathogens commonly attributed to respiratory disease in felines: includes Feline calicivirus (FCV), Feline coronavirus (FCoV), Feline herpesvirus (FHV), Influenza A virus, *Chlamydia* spp, and *Mycoplasma felis* by real-time PCR.

### **Camelid Respiratory Panel (30588)**

Detection of pathogens commonly attributed to respiratory disease in camelids; includes Bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV), Bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV) and *Chlamydia* spp by real-time PCR.

### **Small Ruminant Respiratory Panel (32096)**

Detection of pathogens commonly attributed to respiratory disease in small ruminants; includes *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Histophilus somni*, *Mycoplasma bovis*, *Bibersteinia trehalosi*, Bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV) and *Chlamydia* spp, by real-time PCR.

### **Equine Respiratory Panel (31147)**

Detection of pathogens commonly attributed to respiratory disease in equines; includes Equine herpesvirus Type 1 (EHV-1), Equine herpesvirus Type 4 (EHV-4), Influenza A virus, *Streptococcus equi equi*, *Rhodococcus equi* and Equine viral arteritis (EAV) by real-time PCR.

### **Porcine Respiratory Panel (31875)**

Detection of pathogens commonly attributed to respiratory disease in porcine; includes Porcine circovirus Type 2, Influenza A virus and Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome by real-time PCR.



# Serology

## Serum Submission Information Requests

WVDL requests that serology test submissions include the following animal information to facilitate the prompt reporting of results:

- Age (in months or years)
- Sex
- Nature of testing (ie. export, pre-purchase, semi-annual, diagnostic, etc.)

This information will help facilitate testing turn-around times and will expedite result returns.

## EIA Testing Season is Upon Us

WVDL is preparing for yet another busy season of Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA; Coggins) testing. To ensure we are able to continue providing exceptional diagnostic services, we have provided updates and important information about testing in this correspondence.



### Updates to EIA Testing Services

1. Official certificates can be expected within 72 hours of receipt at the Barron laboratory.
2. Testing services may be expedited with results available within 24 hours of receipt for an added fee. Please see the website for more information.
3. Submissions that do not meet USDA requirements and require clerical attention for processing will be charged an additional processing fee. Testing services may also be delayed.

### Helpful Hints for Frustration-Free EIA Testing

1. The only EIA/Coggins testing available is ELISA.
2. Please submit 1mL of serum, refrigerated and shipped on cold packs. Please note, hemolysed serum will be rejected.
3. Samples must be submitted with their completed submission form. Please note, the animal ID listed on the paperwork MUST match and be clearly identified on the serum sample.
4. Submitting Veterinarians MUST have a valid National Accreditation Number.
5. WVDL-Barron accepts 3 types of submission forms: the Official Federal VS10-11 form, as well as electronic forms via Global Vet Link and APHIS Veterinary Services Process Streaming (VSPS).

For more information please visit the WVDL website [here](#).

Please feel free to call (715-637-3151) or email ([info@wvdl.wisc.edu](mailto:info@wvdl.wisc.edu)) us at any time for answers to your questions. More information can be found at: <https://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/index.php/equine-infectious-anemia-virus-eia-diagnostic-testing/>



# Virology

## Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) Update

WVDL provides Influenza A PCR in many species-specific respiratory PCR testing panels. In addition, we also provide Influenza A PCR testing and ELISA testing for multiple species to meet specific testing needs for avian influenza A, and potentially HPAI for multi-species. The chart below contains information for sampling and submitting avian, cattle, and feline samples suspicious of HPAI or for regulatory testing requirements. Submission and supply order forms may be found on our website: <https://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/submission-and-order-forms/>. Please be sure to indicate the reason for testing and fill in all required areas of information as indicated on the forms. If expedited testing is requested, an additional fee may be applied.

**As a reminder, any abnormal clinical signs and/or increase in mortality should be reported to DATCP at (800) 572-8981.**

Assay	Valid Species	Valid sample type	COFL test code
Influenza ELISA	Avian, Cattle*	Serum, milk	Avian: 20080 (testing done in Barron) Cattle (serum): 40615 (milk): 40628, (cattle testing done in Madison)
Influenza PCR	Avian Cattle Feline**	OP, TR, CL swabs Milk Nasal, OP, brain swabs**	All species: 32330 (testing done in Madison)

\*WVDL now provides Influenza ELISA testing on cattle serum and milk from lactating cows. This is an antibody detection assay and is run Tuesday and Thursday each week.

\*\*Feline Influenza testing

**Effective 1/11/25**, all domestic cats submitted to the WVDL for clinical neurologic disease diagnostic workup, including rabies-only cases, will be screened for HPAI prior to rabies testing. Cases having a heightened rabies testing priority (ie. human exposure) may occur concurrently with HPAI testing. This expedited testing will occur with approval from the State Laboratory of Hygiene as well as approval by the WVDL and/or State Public Health Veterinarian.

The UW-Madison Shelter Medicine program has a comprehensive list of recommendations for monitoring and how to respond to possible infections with H5N1 in cats for shelters, rescues, and access to care clinics: <https://sheltermedicine.wisc.edu/recommendations-for-monitoring-and-response-to-possible-infections-with-avian-influenza-type-a-h5n1-in-cats-for-shelters-rescues-and-access-to-care-clinics/>

Sample types for animals that are alive include nasal, or oral, or oropharyngeal swabs in 3 ml of BHI broth or viral transport media. If the animal is deceased with neurologic signs, a brain/brain swab is the best sample type for submission.

Testing is fee for service, unless it is from a known influenza positive dairy farm.

### Pet Food Testing

Media coverage regarding testing of pet food for influenza A contamination has been present recently amongst news outlets. Currently, WVDL is working closely with state animal health officials to provide testing of pet food. Please see the FDA's most recent recommendations for

testing: <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/cvm-updates/cat-and-dog-food-manufacturers-required-consider-h5n1-food-safety-plans>. Testing is on a fee for service and all results are reportable to federal and state agencies. Please contact WVDL for requirements of pet food submissions.



## Contact US

*Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Providing You With  
Reliable Results and Exceptional Customer Service*

### Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory - Madison

445 Easterday Lane  
Madison, WI 53706  
Phone: 608-262-5432  
Toll Free: 800-608-8387  
Fax: 608-504-2594

### Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory - Barron

1521 E. Guy Avenue  
Barron, WI 54812  
Phone: 715-637-3151  
Toll Free: 800-771-8387  
Fax: 715-449-5052

**Email:** [info@wvdl.wisc.edu](mailto:info@wvdl.wisc.edu)

**Website:** <https://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/>

**Location:** [445 Easterday Lane, Madison, WI, USA](#)

**Phone:** [1.800.608.8387](tel:1.800.608.8387)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinVeterinaryDiagnosticLaboratory/>

**Twitter:** [@wvdl\\_lab](#)



**WVDL**

Please visit our website for more information: <https://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/>



Contact

Subscribe

