



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency



VETQAS[®] Proficiency Testing



VETQAS is the Animal and Plant Health Agency's independent, accredited Quality Assurance unit based in the UK at Sutton Bonington, Leicestershire and has been established for over 40 years.

VETQAS is an international market leader in Proficiency Testing (PT) for veterinary laboratories. The majority of our PT schemes are accredited to ISO 17043.

To view our list of schemes and to see which ones are covered by this standard, please visit www.vetqas.com



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Proficiency Testing gives you and your customers the confidence that your testing is accurate

Participation in VETQAS PT schemes provides testing laboratories with the evidence to prove that their internal processes meet third party accreditation quality standards.

PT is an expected requirement of the ISO 17025 or other recognised laboratory quality assurance standards.

Benefits of participation include:

- Monitor and improve tests and methods
- Train and develop staff and demonstrate analytical competence
- Method validation
- Regular participation can help identify problems or potential problems before they arise

Participation in a PT scheme demonstrates a commitment to improving performance, which is of value in maintaining a good reputation for delivering unbiased, reliable and accurate results. VETQAS schemes are an independent and confidential verification of testing practices offering inter-laboratory comparability among national and international labs.

PT shows that laboratory tests are being performed to a high standard and when done regularly, provide a tool to:

- Satisfy regulators and accreditation bodies
- Demonstrate the accuracy of results
- Train and maintain staff competency
- Confirm the efficiency of quality control measures
- Maintain the quality of tests
- Compare results with other organisations
- Raises the level of confidence of your laboratory and its customers

500 - PT distributions globally across
80 - Countries **800** - laboratories



Bespoke schemes available

If you cannot see what you require on our price list please contact us to discuss your requirements.

VETQAS PT Schemes

We offer a range of PT Schemes and issue thousands of samples a year to laboratories around the world.

The samples issued include serum, blood, milk, animal feed and tissue for a variety of tests ranging from diagnosis of simulated bacterial clinical specimens to biochemical analysis to ELISAs, PCRs and many more. We offer a fast, secure, simple and efficient method of submitting test results and receiving reports through the VETQAS website.

The schemes are principally directed towards farm animal and equine species but there are schemes to meet the needs of laboratories specialising in companion animals and fish diseases.

Scientific categories include:

- Antibody Detection
- Microbiology
- Haematology
- Clinical Chemistry
- Histopathology
- TSE
- Virology
- Parasitology
- Feed Tests

Why choose VETQAS proficiency tests?

- Over 40 years experience in providing PT
- Accredited to ISO 17043
- Specific PT schemes for the veterinary sector covering a wide range of animal species and diseases
- Regular distributions of over 100 PT schemes available from either our global network of distributors or directly from APHA Scientific
- Microbiological test materials contain organisms typically encountered in sample submissions
- Online ordering available
- Participate at a level to suit your requirements
- Fast turnaround of each distribution with a dispatch notification emailed to participants
- No additional software required - submit results directly into the VETQAS database
- Make additions and amendments to your results up until the result entry deadline
- You will receive a notification when your confidential and secure report is published
- Confidential multi-lab reports includes feedback and method comparisons, enabling you to monitor the performance of a network of labs
- Reports from previous distributions remain accessible to participants
- Value for money



Online ordering

To set up an account for online ordering please email vetqas@apha.gov.uk

Bespoke proficiency assessments

We can provide bespoke proficiency assessments to suit your requirements. These could be for an individual laboratory or a group of laboratories.

We have available PT items that can be purchased to perform internal checks or validation studies, or as an additional way to help your laboratory demonstrate proficiency. Please contact us for more details.

It is important to differentiate between quality control and proficiency testing in order to appreciate the benefits.

Quality Control (QC)

The continual monitoring of work practices, for example equipment, reagents and staff enabling the laboratory to be confident in the quality of its results.

Proficiency Testing (PT)

Allows laboratories to check the efficiency of the quality control procedures by testing specimens of undisclosed content.

Problems with PT can often indicate a need to review QC procedures.



The process:



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Samples and results recording sheet.

Samples with undisclosed contents are supplied to participating laboratories along with a result recording sheet. For each scheme, samples are issued at least once a year, following a pre set programme.



Participating Laboratory

Testing and Results

Samples should be analysed using the laboratory's routine test method. The result recording form may be used but the final results must be entered into our on-line system.



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Analysis of Results

VETQAS scientists analyse the results and an evaluation is made by a test or disease expert.



Participating Laboratory

Collated Report

Anonymised results from scheme participants are published electronically and comparisons can be made with the results from other laboratories. Reports provide evidence to assist a laboratory to qualify for accreditation by a third party.

For frequently asked questions and other useful information please visit www.vetqas.com



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To contact the VETQAS customer service team:

Telephone: +44 (0)3000 600003

Email: vetqas@apha.gov.uk

VETQAS
The Elms College Road
Sutton Bonington
Leicestershire LE12 5RB
United Kingdom

www.aphascientific.com

APHA Scientific is the commercial department of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), which is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

