



APHA Briefing Note 12/16

TN184 Request to Test letter for non-bovines

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians of the publication of a revised TN184 letter to request permission from APHA to TB test camelids. This letter now requests additional information and clarifies the instructions on submission of samples. OVs are encouraged to use this letter to also notify APHA of any TB testing in other species, such as captive deer, pigs, sheep and goats.

Background

2. Testing of certain non-bovine species in England and Wales can only proceed with the written approval of APHA. This applies to statutory and private tests, whether skin or blood. In England this includes camelids and captive deer and in Wales, camelids, deer and goats. A Request to Test letter (TN184) has been produced to assist Official Veterinarians apply to APHA, receive written approval from an APHA vet, and then submit samples or results.
3. This process gives APHA forewarning of the arrival of test results and blood samples to the laboratory and ensures that appropriate background information is included. APHA also has the opportunity to discuss the specific circumstances with the private veterinarian. APHA can check that they hold the OCQ(V)-TT qualification, are familiar with the testing protocols for that species and have the correct equipment. In some situations, this permits APHA vets to arrange a supervised visit to assist OVs who may have limited experience of TB testing camelids.
4. OV instructions for camelids have been amended and instructions for other species will be updated soon. OVs are encouraged to use the new letter to

voluntarily inform APHA of any TB testing in other species. In Scotland, there is no legal requirement to notify APHA of testing in non-bovines.

Further Information

- Detailed OV Instructions for camelids can be found at:

http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/TB_Camelids_Instructions/Skin_Test/Skin_Test_Day_One.html

http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/TB_Camelids_Instructions/Ancillary_Testing/index.htm

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