

NVSL could develop and implement the ring trial, but would need assistance from participating laboratories in providing EHV-1 virus isolates for optimal design of the ring trial with multiple isolates, potentially with differing genetics. This approach could provide more information about equivalent performance of the various PCR methods, across strains encountered in the field, than a ring trial using a single isolate.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians request that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Veterinary Services Laboratory proceed with the neuropathic strains of Equine Herpes Virus-1 (nEHV-1) ring trial and make every effort to standardize testing methodology for nEHV-1 polymerase chain reaction testing at diagnostic facilities in the United States.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS supports this resolution, and understands the value of and the need to support diagnostic testing facilities through the development of an Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) ring trial. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) has implemented a collaborative effort with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) to establish a working group whose goal is to design and implement an inter-laboratory comparison test (ring test) that will allow laboratories to test existing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays used for the detection and typing of EHV isolates and neuropathogenic EHV-1, and to establish their performance limits.

As part of this collaboration, NVSL is working with several participating laboratories to receive isolates for testing, propagation, and assembly of panels that it will offer to all interested laboratories this spring, at a cost of \$197 for 12 samples. Once all panels are distributed and all test method and result information is collected and analyzed by NVSL and the working group, NVSL anticipates providing a report of individual laboratory results and a summary of all laboratory responses (redacted to retain anonymity) to all participating laboratories.