



APHA Briefing Note 13/16

APHA Animal Disease Testing Service

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) that a new service has been launched to allow vets in England and Wales to submit disease diagnostic information and receive test results online. The service is known as the APHA Animal Disease Testing Service.

Background

2. This new service will eventually replace the existing paper-based process of sending in sample data and receiving results. Vets in England and Wales will be able to send, receive and track their animal disease testing information direct from the office or while out in the field using their mobile or tablet.
3. The outcomes of a recent private veterinarian survey have been used to inform the design of the service. It will provide greater flexibility for vets and support earlier diagnosis of diseases and access to sample results. APHA will receive disease surveillance information much more quickly and speeding up the process will help vets support their farm clients and tackle animal disease faster.
4. APHA will closely monitor user feedback and behaviour to drive ongoing enhancements and improvements to the Service. It has been built around the needs of vets, and has been tested by selected veterinary practices to ensure it is fit for purpose.
5. Each veterinary practice brought onto the service will be set up with a unique online admin account, which will enable them to:
 - Create new submissions for sick or healthy animals.
 - Search available tests or use a Test Advisor function to select specific tests.
 - Select where to send samples for testing – customers can chose to send samples direct to the testing laboratories or continue to send all samples to their hub laboratory.
 - Print address labels and dispatch notes to accompany samples.

- Track submissions and check if samples have arrived, testing is progressing, results are available, and when all tests are complete.
 - View test results for submissions.
 - Receive email notifications when samples fail to arrive at the testing laboratory.
 - Receive email notifications when results are available to view.
6. The Practice Admin user can manage other practice users, setting up each with an individual secure login. The admin user email address for login is the practice email address that all notification emails will be sent to.
 7. Vets who wish to register for the new digital service can do so by visiting the site <https://www.gov.uk/animal-disease-testing> and using the 'register' option.
 8. Alternatively, you can email AnimalDiseaseTesting@apha.gsi.gov.uk or contact your Veterinary Investigation Centre.

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