



## APHA Briefing Note 14/19

### Revision to the Requirements for OV's Carrying out Brucella Abortion and Anthrax Sudden Death Enquiries.

#### Purpose

1. To notify OV's of an update to the requirements for OV's collecting samples for abortion and sudden death enquiries on behalf of APHA for Brucella and Anthrax surveillance purposes.
2. This is applicable to all OV's holding the OCQ(V) SS (Statutory Surveillance) and also to those holding the OCQ(V) ES (Essential Skills).
3. In England and Wales this is only applicable to OV's carrying out work under the Veterinary Delivery Partner contracts.

#### Background

4. Previously, OV's carrying out for Brucella and Anthrax enquiries have been required to hold the OCQ(V)SS qualification.
5. From 2 May 2019 an OV holding the OCQ(V)ES qualification is permitted to undertake these veterinary enquiries and take samples, under the instruction of a named OCQ(V)SS holder.
6. The OCQ(V) ES holder must complete specified training provided by an OCQ(V)SS holder in order to be eligible to carry out these enquiries.
7. The aim of this change is to give the OCQ(V)SS holder access to more veterinary resource when faced with a request for an enquiry.
8. The named OCQ(V)SS holder will still be ultimately responsible for the investigation and must sign off the required documentation. For Anthrax enquiries they will continue to examine slides and confirm or eliminate suspicion of disease.

9. Training will be delivered in the form of a Power Point Presentation provided by APHA and delivered by an OV holding the OCQ(V) SS. This training must have been completed or revalidated within 4 years prior to the sample collection date.
10. The OCQ(V) SS holder must certify on the relevant documentation that the sampling OV has received the adequate training within the period above and that samples were taken in accordance with the instructions.
11. The OCQ(V) SS holders must ensure that are fully satisfied that they have the supporting evidence for this certification in accordance with the RCVS Principles of Certification. There must be a robust training audit trail in place and kept update to provide the OCQ(V) SS holders with the supporting evidence. The veterinary practices are required to keep these training records for at least 5 years.
12. The training is transferable between practices but it will be at the discretion of the individual OCQ(V) SS holders at each practice as to whether they will require the training to be repeated before they are willing to certify that the person collecting the samples is adequately trained. Any practice for which the OV carries out this work must hold the evidence of the training.

### **Action for OVs**

13. To familiarise themselves with the updated OV instructions on the Vet Gateway.
14. Where required, OCQ(V) SS OVs to deliver the required training to a holder of the OCQ(V) ES qualification using the APHA PowerPoint Presentation as a minimum standard.
15. To ensure that only suitably trained and qualified OCQ(V) ES OVs carry out Brucella Abortion and Anthrax Sudden Death enquiries when instructed to do so.
16. Any OV carrying out these investigations without the required training will be subject to investigation by APHA.

### **Further Information**

OV instructions – [http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External\\_OV\\_Instructions/index.htm](http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/index.htm)

APHA OV Team - [CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

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