About the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory

By testing hundreds of specimens from around the world every business day, TVMDL contributes significantly to protecting the health of livestock, poultry, companion animals, exotic animals, racing animals, and wildlife.

TVMDL offers a wide range of state-of-the-art diagnostic tests that deliver accurate results promptly and affordably. Veterinarians, owners, industries, and government agencies depend on our globally recognized expertise to help preserve animal and public health.

TVMDL is among 12 core laboratories in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, a group of state and regional laboratories designed to provide a nationwide surge-testing, response, and recovery capacity in the event of an animal disease outbreak.

A member of The Texas A&M University System and an agency of Texas A&M AgriLife, TVMDL comprises two full-service laboratories, in College Station and Amarillo, and two poultry laboratories, in Center and Gonzales.

Accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, TVMDL delivers timely, pertinent, and accurate diagnostic test results that are essential for early detection and control of disease.

Our primary customers are animal owners, veterinarians, and state and federal agencies — including the Texas Racing Commission, the Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

TVMDL.tamu.edu
TVMDL is among the busiest diagnostic laboratories in the United States.

600 to 700 submissions received each day from clients across Texas, in neighboring states, and around the world.

16,000+ tests annually for the early detection of high-consequence pathogens, a critical contribution to the One Health/One Medicine approach for protecting public health.

99% of the tests we run benefit these species:
- Dogs
- Horses
- Cattle
- Cats
- Exotic animals
- Poultry
- Swine
- Goats
- Sheep
- Deer

$11.4 billion value of the Texas livestock industry we help protect, acting as the backbone of a statewide, regional, and global animal and zoonotic disease surveillance system.

We also protect the state’s companion animal and public health sectors.

TVMDL performs essential testing that allows owners to legally move commercial animals between states and to export them to other nations.

Four Decades of Growth, Service, and Innovation

1969. TVMDL opens its original 18,000-square-foot facility on the Texas A&M University campus in College Station.

1975. During a massive anthrax outbreak in east central Texas, National Guard helicopters deliver specimens daily to TVMDL, which becomes known worldwide as an anthrax expert.

1978. Our virology section becomes the world’s first to isolate canine parvovirus. In 1979 TVMDL developed a killed canine parvovirus vaccine and licensed it to Jen-Sal Corporation.

1989. The Texas Racing Act gives TVMDL primary responsibility for providing drug-testing services to the pari-mutuel horse and greyhound racing industries.

1991. The 72nd Texas Legislature transfers implementation of the Salmonella Pullorum-Typhoid Program to TVMDL.

1998. Our pathology department is the first to recognize that unusual liver lesions in dogs are caused by aflatoxin contamination of corn-based dog food. Our toxicology department is heavily involved in helping to control the large aflatoxicosis outbreak in Texas and nationwide.

2002. The U.S. Department of Agriculture chooses TVMDL as one of 12 core state/university diagnostic laboratories to be part of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), a partnership between the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and the USDA. NAHLN laboratories receive funds for homeland security surveillance and diagnostics of eight high-priority foreign animal diseases.

2004. TVMDL plays a critical role in containing and eradicating a highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in poultry in Gonzales County, Texas, saving the poultry industry from millions of dollars in potential losses.

2004. Our College Station facility adds two new 800-square-foot Biosafety Level 3 laboratories, designed to diagnose some of the most contagious and deadly animal diseases.

2008. TVMDL is one of the nation’s first laboratories to alert veterinarians and federal agencies to the presence of melamine in companion animal food, resulting in a national reevaluation of the animal food inspection process.

2009. TVMDL diagnoses an outbreak of equine piroplasmosis and works closely with the National Veterinary Services Laboratory and state animal health officials to ensure proper notification and quarantine.

2011. TVMDL opens a new 2,950-square-foot Poultry Diagnostic Laboratory in Gonzales, less than one mile away from the old facility built in 1971. It also expands its full-service laboratory in Amarillo to better serve animal agriculture in the Texas Panhandle.