

The recent review of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) by the Sunset Advisory Commission recommended transferring the agency's diagnostic testing services to the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab (TVMDL). The 87th Texas Legislature passed legislation requiring this change, and the TAHC and TVMDL are working closely together to ensure a smooth transition for this important regulatory testing.

While TVMDL will assume testing duties, the TAHC will continue to enforce regulations to prevent, control, and eradicate specific infectious animal diseases of livestock. TVMDL will work with TAHC to communicate results for reportable regulatory diseases in a timely and efficient manner.

All brucellosis serology testing, pseudorabies serology testing, and identification of ectoparasites performed at TAHC will be discontinued August 20 and TVMDL will assume testing on August 21.

TVMDL is well equipped to handle the increased caseload and has been preparing for this transition. Staff have completed required proficiency training, instrumentation is in place, and offerings have been added to the TVMDL test catalog.

At this time, the TAHC will continue to cover the cost of testing. Submitters will be responsible for TVMDL's accession fee and shipping charges.

Testing Services

Clients can view test offerings for brucellosis serology, pseudorabies serology, and ectoparasite identification on the TVMDL website to learn more about sample collection, submission, turnaround times, and the TVMDL locations that offer each test.

Clients can order the tests using the TVMDL Submission Form and required regulatory testing forms: **VS Form 4-33**, **VS Form 4-54**, or TAHC Form 91-26, as appropriate. Test offerings will include:

Test Code	Test Name
1377	Brucella abortus / suis (Card agglutination)
1378	Brucella abortus / suis (Plate agglutination)
1474	Pseudorabies virus (gB ELISA)
1572	Brucella abortus / suis (BAPA)
1573	Brucella abortus / suis (FPA)
1575	Brucella abortus / suis (Rivanol precipitation)
1576	Brucella abortus / suis (Tube agglutination)
8135	Brucella abortus / suis (CF) [Referral]
1198	Parasite ID – Common (Gross Identification)

The TAHC recommends clients [send samples to TVMDL](#) beginning August 18 as sending samples to the TAHC may result in a delay of service.

TVMDL will screen all bovine and porcine samples for brucellosis using the BAPA test unless specific export, sale, or entry requirements are indicated. In these cases, the submitting veterinarian should specify which tests are required.

Finalized results will be sent via electronic report to the submitting client. Brucellosis records will only be sent electronically and will include a validation QR code. This will allow quick and easy verification that a client's copy matches the original record contained in TVMDL's repository. Paper copies will no longer be mailed.

All brucellosis reports can be validated using any QR scanner app on a smartphone or Internet-connected tablet. A QR code (abbreviated from Quick Response Code) is a two-dimensional barcode that is readable by smartphones. QR codes are unique, like fingerprints, and the code on the form will link directly to the original record at TVMDL.

Supplies and Shipping

TVMDL is unable to offer return service for tube boxes or shipping boxes to adhere to current biosafety standards. Clients are encouraged to use their own packaging for shipments or they may [order shipping boxes](#) from TVMDL.

TVMDL recommends shipping packages using an overnight shipping method; USPS is not recommended. TVMDL has partnered with the Southeast Vocational Alliance (SVA) to provide discounted shipping rates to clients. Learn more about this free service and how to sign up by viewing the [Deliver a Sample](#) page.

New TVMDL Clients

TAHC clients who wish to use TVMDL's testing services must have a TVMDL account. To set up an account, visit the [Find a Form](#) page of the TVMDL website, download, complete, and fax a [New Client Form](#) to 979.458.3260. TVMDL accounts are created for a practice/clinic, allowing all veterinarians at one practice to share an account. Clients with existing TVMDL accounts can begin ordering brucellosis and pseudorabies testing immediately. Contact the TVMDL Finance Section at 979.458.3207 for questions on setting up a new client account.

For more information about TAHC's transfer of testing services to TVMDL, call the TAHC at 512.832.6580 through August 31 and 512.719.0700 after August 31. Additional information is available at tahc.texas.gov.

For more information about TVMDL's testing services, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu or call the agency's headquarters in College Station at 1.888.646.5623.