



“CoVetLab”
PARTNER INSTITUTES
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between :

AGENCE NATIONALE DE SECURITE SANITAIRE DE L'ALIMENTATION, DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DU TRAVAIL (ANSES) (*French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety*)
a public organisation of an administrative nature
with registered offices at

14, rue Pierre et Marie Curie
94701 Maisons-Alfort cedex
FRANCE

represented by its Director General, Pr Benoît Vallet

hereinafter referred to as “**ANSES**”

and

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH AGENCY (APHA)
with registered offices at

Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone
Surrey, KT15 3NB
UNITED KINGDOM

represented by its Science Director Dr. Katherine Webster.

hereinafter referred to as “**APHA**”

and

DANSK VETERINÆR KONSORTIUM (*Danish Veterinary Consortium*) (DK-VET) KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET (*University of Copenhagen*) (KU/UCPH) / STATENS SERUM INSTITUT (SSI)
with registered offices at

Københavns Universitet
Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences
Grønnegårdsvej 15, 1870 Frederiksberg C
DENMARK
/
Statens Serum Institut
Artillerivej 5, 2300 København S
DENMARK

represented by its Head of Department Birgit NØRRUNG

hereinafter referred to as “**DK-VET**”

and

STATENS VETERINÄRMEDICINSKA ANSTALT (SVA) (*Swedish National Veterinary Institute*)
with registered offices at

751 89 Uppsala
SWEDEN

represented by its Director General Dr Ann LINDBERG

hereinafter referred to as “**SVA**”

and



WAGENINGEN BIOVETERINARY RESEARCH (WBVR) institute within the legal entity Stichting Wageningen Research, a foundation (stichting) incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands, with registered office at Wageningen, the Netherlands, with registered offices at

Houtribweg 39
821 RA Lelystad
THE NETHERLANDS

represented by its by its Director Wageningen Bioveterinary Research, prof. dr. L.J. (Ludo) Hellebrekers
hereinafter referred to as “**WBVR**”

Hereinafter individually referred to as
“the Party” and collectively as “the
Parties”,

1. CONTEXT

CoVetLab is a partnership of national veterinary public health institutes from Denmark, France, The Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom, formalised in 2010 based on the previous partnership called “Club V”.

All the members of CoVetLab carry out research, reference and surveillance and act as national and international reference laboratories for various animal diseases. Together they advance high quality veterinary science by the dissemination of knowledge, sharing of experience and the transfer of skills and technology to safeguard animal and public health.

ANSES

ANSES is a French public body under the supervision of the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Environment, Labour and Consumer Affairs. Beyond its laboratory activities, it is active in risk assessment in the fields of food safety and nutrition, animal health and welfare, plant health, environmental health, and occupational health and safety. ANSES also carries out tasks relating to the evaluation and placing on the market of regulated products: veterinary medicinal products, plant protection products and biocides.

APHA

APHA is an executive agency of the UK government Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government and Welsh Government. APHA is responsible for:

- identifying and controlling endemic and exotic diseases and pests in animals, plants and bees, and surveillance of new and emerging pests and diseases
- scientific research in areas such as bacterial, viral, prion and parasitic diseases and vaccines, and food safety; and act as an international reference laboratory for many farm animal diseases
- facilitating international trade in animals, products of animal origin, and plants
- protecting endangered wildlife through licensing and registration
- managing a programme of apiary (bee) inspections, diagnostics, research and development, and training and advice
- regulating the safe disposal of animal by-products to reduce the risk of potentially dangerous substances entering the food chain

DK-VET

DK-VET is a collaboration between the University of Copenhagen (UCPH) and the Statens Serum Institut (SSI). The One Health consortium is responsible for the provision of the veterinary public service to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration under the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries. This includes research, consultancy services in particular risk assessments, disease surveillance and laboratory preparedness in relation to livestock diseases. Further DK-VET is the national reference laboratory (NRL) for notifiable diseases.

SVA

SVA is a governmental agency under the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, providing expert advice and working for good animal and human health in Sweden. The main tasks are to make risk assessments and have preparedness in areas such as origins and spread of animal diseases including zoonoses, to be a national diagnostic laboratory for zoonotic, epizootic and other notifiable diseases in animals, to be the national reference laboratory (NRL) and to perform research and development to support these activities. SVA also has the responsibility to monitor and analyse the situation regarding antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in microorganisms and to make yearly surveillance plans both for AMR and for epizootic and zoonotic diseases.



WBVR

WBVR belongs to Wageningen University and Research, a collaboration between Wageningen University and the Wageningen Research foundation. WBVR collaborates with public and private partners to safeguard animal and public health through prevention, eradication and control of animal diseases. WBVR is commissioned by the Dutch authorities, veterinary and human pharmaceutical industry, meat and dairy industry, as well as start-up companies in biotechnology to do research. For the government, research activities consist among others of statutory tasks and other tasks related to animal health. For the private-public sector, WBVR carries out research related to vaccine development, diagnostics and animal health in general.

2. OBJECT OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

2.1. PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The objective of this Memorandum of understanding is:

- a) to advance high quality veterinary science by the dissemination of knowledge, sharing of experience and the transfer of skills and technology between the Parties,
- b) to enlarge the scientific capabilities of the Parties
- c) to promote, in the framework of their respective missions, in their areas of activity and in respect of their independence and respective rules and policies, improved scientific and technical cooperation between the Parties.

The Parties therefore agree to seek and implement projects of common interest in the areas mentioned in Article 2.2.

This Memorandum of understanding is a voluntary agreement, which enables the Parties to enhance their knowledge and data exchange and expert assessments in order to improve their efficiency in the fulfillment of their respective missions.

2.2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Parties wish to collaborate in the following areas: animal health and welfare, and zoonoses.

3. FORMS OF COOPERATION

The Parties agree that the cooperation shall relate to the possible joint implementation of research, reference, risk assessment, and surveillance activities, exchange of technical knowledge and know-how, common projects of technical assistance for, or in cooperation with institutions in other countries, with a view to the joint achievement of shared goals.

Each Party undertakes not to interfere, by any means whatsoever, with the independence, rights and obligations of the other Parties.

Collaboration between the Parties will include:

- (a) Maintenance of the CoVetLab website;
- (b) One management and scientific CoVetLab meeting per year;
- (c) Calamity services regarding the diagnosis of notifiable animal diseases;
- (d) Supply of laboratory services between the Parties;
- (e) Whenever possible general exchange of analysis methods and validations to secure the Parties' capacity to develop, obtain and maintain state-of-the-art analysis methods for animal diseases;
- (f) Joint scientific research, including joint proposals for funding, execution of joint scientific research projects, dissemination and exploitation of results;
- (g) Organisation of joint scientific activities such as seminars, lectures, workshops and conferences to maintain awareness and current knowledge and to explore ways of resolving problems of common interest;
- (h) Promotion of short-term staff placements ; and
- (i) Sharing of information on relevant scientific developments and on opportunities for collaboration with other institutes

Each specific cooperation project approved for funding (at the management and scientific CoVetLab annual meetings) will be funded by the CoVetLab partners involved. Each project shall involve three or more CoVetLab partners' teams, for a project duration of 6 to 18 months and shall be covered by a detailed agreement signed by the Parties.

Each detailed agreement shall establish the terms of cooperation, including the project objectives, work plan, research methods and procedures, the scientists or teams of scientists involved, and the conditions relating to confidentiality, publication of results and intellectual property.



This Memorandum of understanding does not include financial provisions. These will be specified in each individual agreement according to the rules of each Party.

4. OTHER TERMS

The Parties will encourage an environment of mutual trust and goodwill.

The Parties will agree in advance any publicity to be given to this Memorandum of understanding and to resulting activities.

The Parties are free to enter into collaborative agreements with other parties.

No Party may act as the agent of another party without written consent.

The annual CoVetLab meeting is prepared and organised by the host institute (on an annual rotating mode).

The host institute of the meeting of year N accepts the responsibility to implement the CoVetLab initiatives decided for the year to follow.

Collaboration of CoVetLab will be developed, managed and maintained by a contact person at each Party.

This Memorandum of understanding is not intended to create obligations under international law. The intended activities are subject to the availability of funds and other resources.

This Memorandum of understanding will come into operation on the date on which it is signed by the last of all the parties.

This Memorandum of understanding is concluded for a period of 5 (five) years.

Unless otherwise stated, this Memorandum of understanding will automatically be extended for an additional period of 5 (five) years at a time, with no renewal limit.

This Memorandum of understanding can be terminated by either Party by giving 6 (six) months written notice. This does not affect the Parties' right of extraordinary termination of the Memorandum for good cause.

Modifications and amendments to this Memorandum shall only be made in writing.

Each year, suggestions for amendments or for the termination of the Memorandum of understanding may be presented at least two months before changes are to be introduced or two months before the required date of termination.

This Memorandum of understanding is written in English only.

27/07/2023 Signed on _____, in pour le directeur général et par La directrice générale adjointe DocuSigned by: Pr Benoit Vallet Director General <i>Agathe Duvérier</i> B3108616861E480... AGENCE NATIONALE DE SECURITE SANITAIRE DE L'ALIMENTATION, DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DU TRAVAIL (ANSES) (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety)	Signed on 20/04/2022, in délégation <i>K. Webster</i> Dr Kath Webster Director of Scientific Services ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH AGENCY (APHA)
Signed on 20/04/2022, in <i>B. Nørrung</i> Dr Birgit NØRRUNG Head of Department	Signed on 24/01/2023, in <i>Ann Lindberg</i> Dr Ann LINDBERG Director General



DANSK VETERINÆR KONSORTIUM (Danish Veterinary Consortium) (DK-VET) KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET (University of Copenhagen) (KU/UCPH) / STATENS SERUM INSTITUT (SSI)	STATENS VETERINÄRMEDICINSKA ANSTALT (Swedish National Veterinary Institute) (SVA)
Signed on May 4th 2022, in Lelystad i/o  Drs.ir. M.T. van Manen Director Operations, STICHTING WAGENINGEN RESEARCH, WAGENINGEN BIOVETERINARY RESEARCH (WBVR)	