



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

# Private Veterinary Laboratories in the UK

June 2018

# Content

- Historical Perspective
  - Current organisation and involvement
  - Pros and Cons
  - Future perspective
-

# Historical Perspective

- Veterinary Diagnostic and Statutory testing has been dominated by government and public body organisations for over 100 years
- Veterinary Investigation Service and Central Veterinary Laboratory (now APHA) offered a free diagnostic service
- Scottish Agricultural College and Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
- Technology improvements and simplification
- Introduction of charging, focus of production animals
- Stand alone laboratories
- Larger veterinary group practices
- Reduction in submission of diagnostic samples



# Organisation and involvement

Small Veterinary  
Practice Labs  
300+

Larger group  
practice and smaller  
dedicated  
laboratories  
30+

Dedicated private  
laboratories, institutes  
and organisations  
25+



# Who does what

## Private Veterinary Laboratories

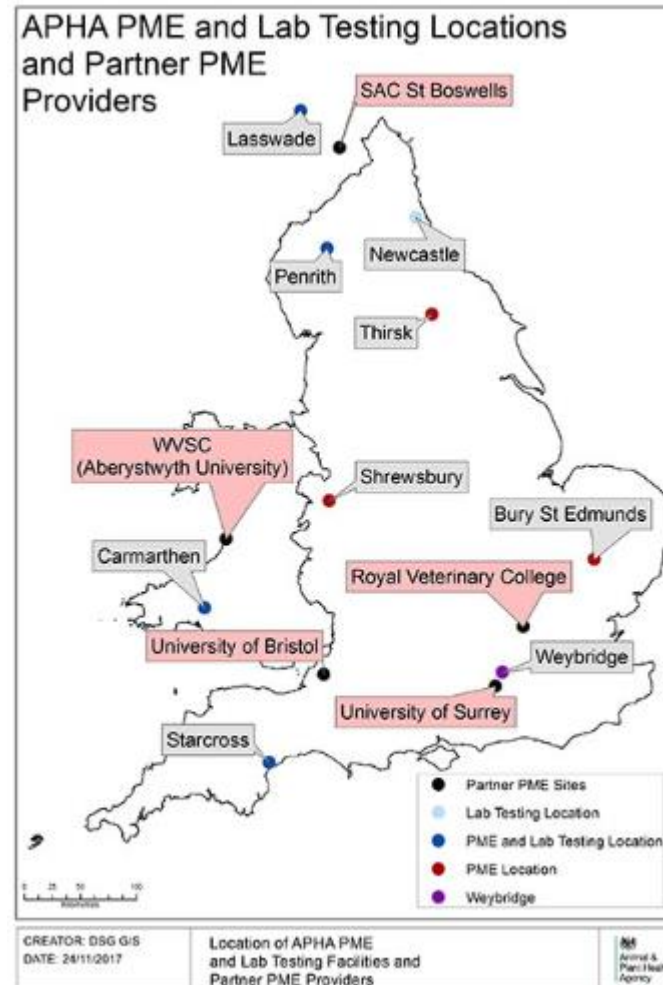
- Diagnostic testing
- Post Mortem examinations
- Contracted Statutory work
- Livestock Health scheme testing

## APHA Laboratories and partner post-mortem providers

- Diagnostic testing
  - Extensive portfolio of tests
  - Post Mortem examination
  - Statutory testing
  - Notifiable disease testing (emergency response capacity)
-

# National surveillance Network

- 6 APHA VI centres for PMEs + partners
- Provision of PME, diagnostics & advice/ support
- Species groups (cattle, small ruminant, pigs avian, wildlife, misc & exotics)
- Relationships with other laboratories and veterinary colleagues



# Pros

- Private veterinary labs provide an important service
- Adaptability
- Lower Costs
- Potential additional surveillance source

# Cons

- Potential loss of surveillance data
  - Variable amount of quality control
  - Commercial pressures/ reliability
  - Cherry picking
  - Not set up for surveillance
-

# The Future

- Further collaboration with private laboratories
- Control - contractual
- Access to testing data
- Partnerships – further investigations





Thank you

