OKLAHOMA ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

Mission

The Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory provides vigilant, accessible and accountable diagnostic service for Oklahoma animal owners and veterinarians.

Vision

The Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory will advance the quality of life of Oklahoma citizens through protection of animals against diseases that result in economic loss, emotional distress or may be transmissible to humans.

The Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory will also:

- Develop and deliver state-of-the-art diagnostic testing;
- Maintain requirements for accreditation;
- Maintain requirements for quality assurance;
- Meet or exceed commitments to other agencies such as State Department of Health and Homeland security; and
- Serve as the sentinel for newly emerging, zoonotic, and foreign animal diseases.

Core Values

Excellence – We seek excellence in all our endeavors, and we are committed to continuous improvement.

Intellectual Freedom – We believe in ethical and scholarly questioning in an environment that respects the rights of all to freely pursue knowledge.

Integrity – We are committed to the principles of truth and honesty, and we will be equitable, ethical, and professional.

Service – We believe that serving others is a noble and worthy endeavor.

Diversity – We respect others and value diversity of opinion, freedom of expression, and other ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Stewardship of Resources – We are dedicated to the efficient and effective use of resources. We accept the responsibility of the public's trust and are accountable for our actions.

Client Centered – We are dedicated to providing confidential, efficient and accurate diagnostic information.

Goals, Critical Success Factors, Objectives, and Strategies

Goal One. Assure optimal environment for state-of-the-art diagnostics and to meet health and safety requirements for personnel.

Critical Success Factors:

- Expansion and maintenance of current facility
- Enhanced molecular diagnostics
- Implement reliable, cost effective, and safe methods for carcass and tissue disposal
- Enhanced operational revenues
- Improved safety and efficiency of operations

Objectives:

Objective 1.1: Expand current facility by at least 20,000 square feet to meet current and future needs for state-of-the-art diagnostic services.

Strategies:

- Renovate, expand and maintain current facility to provide modern laboratory and office space.
- Include biological safety level 3 components in laboratories.
- Add a biological safety level 3 necropsy laboratory.
- Secure funding for state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment.
- Develop collaborations with the State Department of Agriculture, the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association, the Oklahoma State Department of Public Health, and Oklahoma State University for funding strategies.

Objective 1.2: Meet requirements for accreditation and designation as a regional veterinary diagnostic laboratory within the national network of veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

Strategies:

- Acquire, implement and maintain state-of-the-art diagnostic management software.
- Network laboratory with all other state and federal veterinary diagnostic laboratories.
- Network laboratory with Oklahoma Department of Public Health.
- Network laboratory with Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and other service laboratories at College of Veterinary Medicine.

Objective 1.3: Provide a cost effective, safe, and environmentally "friendly" method for carcass and tissue disposal.

Strategies:

- Install an alkaline tissue digester.
- Refurbish and maintain incineration capacity.
- Renovate equipment for safe movement of large animal carcasses.
- Develop agreement with City of Stillwater for disposal of digested tissue effluent.
- Expand refrigerated storage capacity.
- Seek funding from state and federal agencies.

Objective 1.4: Provide a safe working environment for faculty, staff, and students.

Strategies:

- Add biological safety level 2 and 3 equipment in laboratories that handle select agents and toxic chemicals.
- Build a biological safety level 3 necropsy laboratory for examination of animals with suspected highly contagious or zoonotic diseases.
- Install new air handling equipment for necropsy area.
- Upgrade and remodel existing air handler.
- Continually monitor air quality.

Objective 1.5: Increase the number of faculty and support staff required to meet current and future service obligations.

Strategies:

- Explore further interdepartmental faculty appointments with Department of Pathobiology.
- Add 2 pathologists with expertise in swine and avian pathology.
- Implement residency training programs in diagnostic medicine in cooperation with other academic departments.
- Add 1 board certified toxicologist and re-implement the toxicology residency.
- Add a molecular biologist.

Goal Two: Reduce the incidence and threat of diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans, the zoonotic diseases.

Critical Success Factors:

- Rapid identification of new zoonotic diseases
- Rapid development and implementation of quick diagnostic tests for new diseases.
- Real time exchange of disease information between Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and Oklahoma State Health Department

Objectives:

Objective 2.1: Develop effective programs for detecting, reporting and studying zoonotic diseases.

Strategies:

- Enhance collaborations with Oklahoma State Department of Health.
- Network diagnostic data bases within state and nationally.
- Implement state-of-the-art diagnostic management software.
- Continuously develop and implement "real time" molecular diagnostic tests for diseases pertinent to Oklahoma.
- Develop collaborative research projects on zoonotic diseases.

Goal Three: Reduce Oklahoma's economic losses due to animal diseases, parasites and toxins.

Critical Success Factors:

- Analyze annual report of disease diagnosis listing number of deaths with number at risk
- Attend and address a minimum of three state veterinary meetings annually
- Have a first responder team in place by December, 2004
- Have a multidiscipline herd health team organized by January, 2005

Objectives:

Objective 3.1: Improve and protect the animal agricultural economy of Oklahoma through disease detection, containment, and prevention.

Strategies:

- Provide vigilant, accessible, and accurate diagnostic services.
- Educate veterinarians and animal owners about detection, prevention and control of animal and zoonotic diseases.
- Develop state and national partnerships for the early detection and containment of infectious diseases including foreign animal diseases.
- Establish a multidiscipline team with the Departments of Clinical Sciences and Pathobiology, composed of clinicians, investigative microbiologists/pathologists, epidemiologists and diagnosticians to provide a comprehensive animal health production consultation program for the outreach, investigative and teaching programs.
- With colleagues in other departments, establish a college based first responder team of disease experts to investigate catastrophic disease losses.
- Identify a lead pathologist for food animal diseases.

Goal Four: Improve the quality of life for Oklahoma citizens, by providing veterinary diagnostic services for companion and exotic animal species.

Critical Success Factors:

- Submit a questionnaire to companion animal veterinarians annually assessing scope and quality of diagnostic services
- Attend and address a minimum of three state veterinary meetings for companion animals

Objectives:

Objective 4.1: Maintain and improve systems to provide accurate, timely laboratory results to veterinary and lay clients on infectious, nutritional, toxic, neoplastic and metabolic disease states affecting companion, avian, aquatic, wildlife and exotic species of animals native to or residing in Oklahoma.

Strategies:

- Maintain and supplement faculty and support staff to insure accessible, accurate and timely diagnostic services.
- Provide continuing education course to practitioners regarding detection, prevention, control and management of disease states in companion and exotic species.
- Develop and maintain relationships with local, regional and state veterinary practitioner coalitions, as well as companion and exotic animal support or producer groups.
- Provide continuing education to faculty in diagnostic medicine related to companion and exotic animals.
- Identify a lead pathologist for companion animal diseases.
- Maintain open communication with State Department of Wildlife.

Goal Five: Provide support for teaching and research programs of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Critical Success Factors:

- Have all faculty within laboratory participate in didactic lectures in veterinary medical curriculum
- Tract number of lectures given by faculty
- Submit tissues to grand rounds weekly
- Help develop and implement a diagnostic medicine elective course by January, 2005

Objectives:

Objective 5.1: Enhance veterinary student learning in procedures important to the accurate diagnosis and reporting of animal and zoonotic diseases.

Strategies:

- Increase student case exposure in diagnostic laboratory medicine.
- Assist in teaching systemic pathology and microbiology courses.
- Participate in Pathology Grand Rounds.
- Continue as Instructor of Record for veterinary toxicology course.
- Offer a diagnostic elective for senior veterinary students.

Objective 5.2: Enhance clinical and basic research on infectious and non-infectious diseases of animals and zoonotic diseases.

Strategies:

- Enhance collaborations for conducting basic and clinical research.
- Develop residency programs in diagnostic medicine.