

# New diagnostic test launched to combat chlamydial abortion in sheep

SCIENTISTS at the Moredun Research Institute have developed a new diagnostic test for *Chlamydia abortus*, the causative agent of Ovine Enzootic Abortion (OEA).

OEA, also known as Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (EAE) or ovine chlamydiosis, is a major cause of lamb mortality across the world and accounts for 44% of diagnosed infectious abortions in UK sheep. *C. abortus* invades the placenta during pregnancy which can lead to abortion or the birth of weak lambs.

The new test, the scientists say, will allow for more accurate diagnosis of the disease by offering higher specificity and sensitivity of detection in comparison to other serological tests. It works by detecting the presence of antibodies to *C. abortus* in blood samples from infected sheep using an indirect ELISA technique.

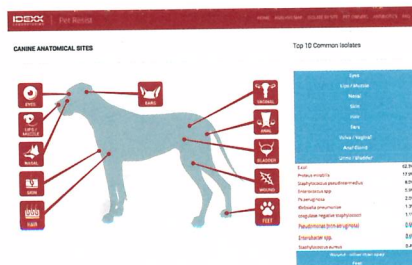
The new test is being marketed to veterinary diagnostic laboratories by MV Diagnostics Ltd. The product is manufactured by Enfer Scientific.

Dr David Longbottom, the principal scientist who led the development

of the test at Moredun, commented: "I am delighted that the test is now commercially available providing farmers, vets and diagnostic laboratories with access to an improved tool that allows a more accurate diagnosis of this devastating sheep disease."

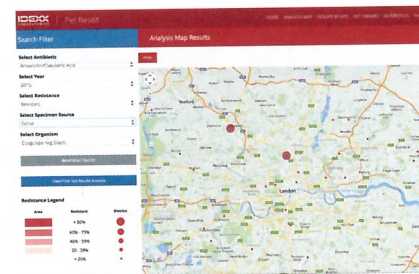
## Antibiotic resistance mapping by anatomical area

THE IDEXX Pet Resist antibiotic resistance mapping website has been updated to include information on the anatomical site from where the submission sample was obtained.



In addition to being able to see geographical variations in resistance to the top 10 antibiotics used in cats and dogs, site visitors will now be able to view this information by the most commonly submitted anatomical site.

Simon Wootton, UK CAG marketing manager for IDEXX, says



that providing this additional resistance and sensitivity information will help vets make more informed decisions on treatment and therapy.

"We believe this will be an additional valuable aid for providing first-line treatment options before samples can be tested," he says. "This is not an alternative to microbiological analysis, but merely an aid to assessing which antibiotic may aid treatment based on many years' data and well over 200,000 samples submitted to IDEXX."

The information on the website is available free to practising veterinary surgeons. The company says that its aim is to help UK vets gain a good understanding of antibiotic resistance and sensitivity, to help them make more informed decisions when it comes to prescribing antibiotics at initial consultations.

For more information, go to [www.petresist.com](http://www.petresist.com).

## Pilot for on-farm mastitis tests

SYNERGY Farm Health is working with clients to pilot a new on-farm mastitis test, developed by Vétroquinol, which, it says, will encourage responsible use of antibiotics.

The new kit enables farmers to test cattle themselves on-farm and get a result within 24 hours to either treat with antibiotics or not, avoiding the pre-emptive use of antibiotics while waiting up to two days for lab results.

The pilot involves eight dairy farms across Dorset and Somerset, including some organic farms.

Rachel Hayton, a vet at the practice, explains, "Once trained and with veterinary back-up, advice and monitoring farmers can confidently test and treat only the cows that return



Rachel Hayton plating up a Vétorapid plate.

a positive result. We know that some Gram-negative conditions can get better by themselves without the use of antibiotics; however, Gram-positive conditions, which include staphylococci and streptococci, can become chronic if left untreated by antibiotics. Cows that are sick with, for instance, acute *E. coli* mastitis, also continue to receive treatment. With this test farmers can ensure they are using the correct antibiotics in a targeted and responsible way and reducing overall use of them on their farms."

Initial indications are that farms have reduced the use of antibiotics without reducing the cure rates. Importantly, the kit is only suitable with veterinary advice and on carefully selected farms. Where contagious mastitis is the most significant problem, it may not be the best approach, but could provide an earlier indicator that further bacteriology services and control measures may be required.

## Detection kits for small animal infectious diseases

BIOGAL Galed Labs of Israel recently launched the PCRun Veterinary Molecular Detection Kits for companion animal infectious diseases.

The firm says that with this technology vets can receive an in-clinic PCR result within 75 minutes.

There is no need for a thermocycler, says Biogal: the kits can be used in a small animal veterinary lab and/or clinic.

Those currently available are for canine leptospira, *Ehrlichia canis*, *Babesia canis*, parvovirus, *Anaplasma platys*, leishmania and feline *Mycoplasma haemofelis*.

For details go to [www.biogal.co.il](http://www.biogal.co.il).

## Rapid tests increase in-house testing capabilities

ABAXIS UK's latest addition to its VetScan range – Rapid Tests – allow users to increase in-house diagnostic testing capabilities without the need for specialised equipment, says the firm.

Fast, accurate, easy and affordable, Abaxis says, available to the market are seven "cost-effective, easy to use" tests for vector-borne and faecal diseases, including FeLV/FIV, canine heartworm, Ehrlichia, canine Lyme, Giardia, anaplasma and parvovirus, all with high specificity and sensitivity.

Utilising a lateral flow immunoassay technique that is said to combine the advantages of immunodetection and chromatography, practices can get accurate and easy-to-read results in less than 10 minutes, says the firm.

For more information, visit [www.abaxis.co.uk/products](http://www.abaxis.co.uk/products) or e-mail [sales@abaxis.co.uk](mailto:sales@abaxis.co.uk).

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