Terms of Reference for the WOAH Focal Point for Veterinary Laboratories

Details on proposed tasks of the focal point for veterinary laboratories:

1. to establish a network of experts domestically on veterinary laboratory issues and/or to communicate with existing networks;

2. to establish and maintain a dialogue with the Competent Authority for domestic veterinary laboratories, including facilitating cooperation and communication among several authorities where responsibility for veterinary laboratories is shared. This would also incorporate facilitating cooperation and communication with Competent Authorities of other Laboratories, including those in other government Ministries. Keep updated on the legislation and activities of the Veterinary Laboratories to verify that they are in conformity with the standards and guidelines of the WOAH;

3. to serve as focal point for the WOAH in topics related to the Veterinary Laboratories, including contributing to determining the training and other capacity building needs for the domestic Veterinary Laboratories;

4. to compile responses to requests for information required by the WOAH in coordination with Veterinary Laboratories that provide specific competence in the subject of consultation;

5. if prompted, to organize consultations with recognized experts in the area of veterinary laboratories on WOAH draft standards and/or guidelines and domestic proposals to the WOAH of new standards;

6. to prepare comments for the Delegate on all relevant WOAH draft standards and/or guidelines and domestic proposals of new standards to the WOAH, reflecting the points of view and the scientific positions of a WOAH Member or the region;

7. to maintain contact with the other WOAH focal points for veterinary laboratories that belong to regional networks and with experts of WOAH Reference Laboratories present in the Region;

8. to collaborate with WOAH Reference Centres worldwide;

9. to prepare proposals for participation of Veterinary Laboratories in the WOAH Laboratory Twinning Programme when relevant.