

RVC-FARM ANIMAL PATHOLOGY AND DIAGNOSTICS (FAPD)

1. Who are we and what do we do?

RVC-FAPD is a recognised third party expert Post Mortem Examination (PME) provider for APHA. We carry out post mortem examinations on all farmed animal species – for a subsidised fee if the carcass is suitable for surveillance purposes and a non-subsidised fee if it is not suitable for surveillance purposes. Our group consists of specialised veterinary pathologists, pathology residents and former Veterinary Investigation Officers with longstanding veterinary farm animal experience in the UK. The most likely veterinary staff members you will talk to include Dr Sonja Jeckel and Bernat Marti Garcia.

2. How do you contact us?

Easiest by telephone on 07793801684 (or 01707 – 666630). If we aren't able to answer either, please leave us a message and we will get back to you. We can also be contacted by e-mail: fapd@rvc.ac.uk

3. What are our opening hours?

Our opening hours are Monday- Friday between 9.00am and 17.00pm.

4. Where are we located?

We are based on the Hawkshead Campus of the RVC near Potters Bar. Address: Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, AL9 7TA (directions can be found here: <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/our-campuses/hawkshead/find-us>)

5. What do you need to do if you would like to submit a carcass (live or dead) of a farmed animal species for post mortem examination (PME)?

Please always give us a call first on the number above to discuss the case and its history, to allow us to assess its suitability for subsidy and to arrange a suitable time for receipt of the carcass. Thereafter please fill in our submission form and e-mail to fapd@rvc.ac.uk. All submissions are implicit of permission to retain tissues for diagnostic / research/ teaching purposes unless advised differently at the time of submission.

6. How do you know if a carcass is suitable for a subsidised PM charge?

Always contact us for discussion before submitting a carcass, so we can advise you appropriately. The eligibility criteria for a subsidised PME include the degree of autolysis and suitability for surveillance purposes (e.g. is PME the most appropriate diagnostic method). Assessment criteria are similar across all APHA supported PM facilities. Even if a carcass is not suitable for subsidised PME, you might still want to consider submission as our routine prices are highly competitive.

7. How much are you being charged for a PM and what is included?

Please see the price list for subsidised PMEs. The charge includes gross post mortem examination and reasonable testing required for reaching a diagnosis (at the discretion of the pathologist). Other testing (e.g. for monitoring purposes) can be carried out on request but will incur a charge. A free carcass collection service is available for carcasses suitable for surveillance purposes from specified postcodes only – please find further information below.

The charge for a non-subsidised PME is the same as for a subsidised one (see separate price list); however, it only includes gross post mortem examination. Any additional testing e.g. microbiology, histopathology etc will incur an additional charge. Also, in large carcasses there will be an increased disposal charge to cover our expenses.

8. Do we also carry out PMs on non-farmed animal species?

Yes. The RVC Diagnostic Laboratories provide also a post mortem service for companion and other animal species. Information and price list can be found here (<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/pathology-and-diagnostic-laboratories/diagnostic-laboratories>).

Carcass collection service

An APHA subsidised carcass collection service to RVC- FAPD is available for carcasses suitable for surveillance PMEs from specified postcodes within the RVC catchment area that are more than one hour drive away. If you intend to use this service, please:

- Check that the farm postcode is eligible for carcass collection and delivery to the RVC by entering it into the APHA postcode search tool:
<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/postcode/pme.asp>
- Give us a call to discuss eligibility of the carcass for surveillance PME. If agreed, we will initiate collection with the haulier who will liaise directly with the farmer.
- We will require the precise farm address and a farmer contact telephone number at the time of submission as well as a full clinical history fulfilling surveillance requirements. You are expected to supply a filled in submission form following telephone agreement of acceptance.
- Early telephone notification (before 10am) of potential cases is important in order to ensure same day pickup. Advanced autolysis can impede diagnostic success.

Unfortunately, the RVC cannot provide or organise a carcass transport for animals from outside the specified postcodes or for carcasses not suitable for surveillance PMEs. In these cases, the clients will unfortunately have to organise carcass transport themselves.