



UNIVERSITY OF
SURREY

Farm Animal Post Mortem Examination Service

Information for Farmers



University of Surrey Farm Animal PME Service

Tel: 01483 689823

Email: vetpath@surrey.ac.uk

Introduction

The University of Surrey provides a subsidised surveillance post-mortem examination (PME) service for farmed livestock on behalf of Defra's Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

The service is delivered by a team of board-certified veterinary pathologists and experienced veterinary surgeons who have received additional training in pathology.

The surveillance subsidy ensures that we can charge a single fee which covers the cost of both the PME and reasonable testing needed to reach a diagnosis. All data and samples from submissions will be managed by the University of Surrey.

Additional testing beyond what is necessary for surveillance purposes (and all testing for private PMEs) will be agreed and charged separately.



What are the Benefits?

Farm animal post-mortem examinations have become somewhat neglected recently despite the many potential benefits for investigating outbreaks of pneumonia, abortion and sudden death, amongst others.

1. It can be an invaluable tool in investigating a flock or herd health issue by giving us valuable visual clues as to what the real problem is. This allows us to target subsequent treatment and management plans in the most effective manner.
2. Many diseases result in similar or vague signs of illness, so post-mortem examination may be the only reliable way to differentiate between them.
3. For diseases that result in sudden death, PME may be the only way to confirm the cause of death.
4. In some cases, valuable samples can be collected after death. This can help to yield information, not just about the animal that has died, but about surviving members of the group as well.
5. It can often be a great way of indicating whether a single death is likely to be a one-off or the first in a major outbreak, without having to just wait and see if further deaths occur.
6. Finally, surveillance enables new and emerging diseases to be identified thereby protecting your animals and the national herd.



Hours of Service

Our current hours of service are 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours, calls to the telephone service number will reach a voicemail message offering information on the service.



Process

1. Contact your vet to request a PME.



2. Your vet rings the PME service number 01483 689823 to provide the case details.



3. A decision is made about whether the case is eligible for the surveillance subsidy.



4. Transport of the carcass is arranged to the Veterinary Pathology Centre.



5. The PME is performed and a report is sent to your vet. The important findings and recommendations are then passed on to you, the client.



6. Additional testing will be carried out if needed and will be reported when results are available.

If you have a carcass you would like to submit for examination, please call your veterinary practice to discuss further.

Free Carcase Collection Area in Blue

