

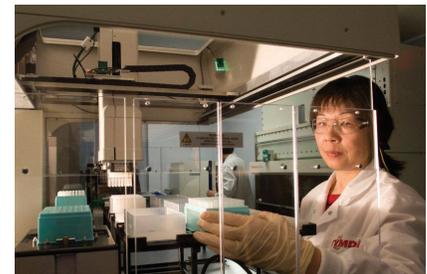
## Fact Sheet: Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory



### Agency Overview

TVMDL's mission is to promote animal health and protect agricultural, companion animal and public health in Texas – and beyond – through excellence in veterinary diagnostic services. Every business day, TVMDL tests hundreds of specimens from clients across Texas, in neighboring states, and around the world. By operating four laboratories strategically located in the state's most concentrated areas for livestock and poultry production, TVMDL acts as the backbone of a statewide, regional and global disease surveillance system that protects the state's multi-billion-dollar livestock industry as well as poultry, companion animals, exotics, racing animals, wildlife and public health.

Accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, TVMDL is among the 12 core laboratories in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, which is designed to provide a nationwide surge-testing, response, and recovery capacity during an animal disease outbreak. TVMDL also operates Biological Safety Level 3 laboratories in Amarillo and College Station dedicated exclusively to the diagnosis of high-consequence animal diseases.



#### QUICK FACTS:

**Established:**  
1967

**Annual Caseload:**  
160,000

**Number of locations:**  
4

**Average tests per year:**  
768,000

**FY 2015 operating budget:**  
\$17.3 million

Through a program of biosurveillance, TVMDL supports One Health, the global strategy dedicated to improving human, animal and environmental health. As one of the busiest diagnostic laboratories in the nation, TVMDL delivers accurate and timely test results that are essential for early detection and control of disease — including more than 16,000 tests annually to detect high-consequence pathogens that affect public health, animal health and the agriculture economy. Some of these pathogens are transmissible between people and animals. Others could disrupt the nation's food supply. TVMDL labs routinely test for avian influenza, novel H1N1 influenza, swine influenza, foot-and-mouth disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, classical swine fever, pseudorabies, chronic wasting disease, exotic Newcastle disease, contagious equine metritis and vesicular stomatitis, among others.

TVMDL's virologists were the world's first to isolate canine parvovirus. Its pathologists were the first to recognize that unusual liver lesions in dogs are caused by aflatoxin contamination of corn-based dog food. It was one of the nation's first laboratories to alert veterinarians and federal agencies to the presence of melamine in companion animal food. This resulted in a national reevaluation of the animal food inspection process. TVMDL has also played critical roles in the initial identification of outbreaks of anthrax, avian influenza, equine piroplasmiasis, porcine epidemic diarrhea virus, West Nile virus, and chronic wasting disease.

## TVMDL



### DIAGNOSTICS EXPERTS

Animal industries, government agencies, veterinarians and animal owners depend upon TVMDL's globally recognized expertise in veterinary diagnostics. TVMDL employs more than 30 veterinarians with doctoral degrees, board certifications or both. The agency's professionals consult with clients to help solve difficult cases. They also develop and validate cutting-edge technologies and platforms for diagnostic testing.



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## OUR STATEWIDE PRESENCE

- ★ Texas A&M University and Agency Headquarters
- Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory

TVMDL comprises two full-service laboratories in College Station and Amarillo, and two poultry laboratories in Center and Gonzales.

### TVMDL DIRECTOR



Bruce L. Akey, DVM, MS, serves as director for the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL), a State agency in the Texas A&M University System.

Dr. Akey is a nationally recognized leader in veterinary diagnostics. From 2006 through May of 2014, Dr. Akey was the assistant dean for diagnostic operations and the executive director of the Animal Health Diagnostic Center in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. He served three and a half years as assistant state veterinarian for the New York State Department of

Agriculture and Markets, was the chief of the Office of Laboratory Services at the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for 13 years, and was in private clinical practice for 4 years prior to that.

A graduate of the College of William and Mary with a bachelor's degree in biology, Dr. Akey also holds a master of science in parasitology from the University of Florida and a doctorate of veterinary medicine from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Akey currently serves as co-chair of the AAVLD Government Relations Committee, is a member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) Coordinating Council, co-chair of the NAHLN Methods Technical Working Group and a member of the NAHLN Information Technology Committee.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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