

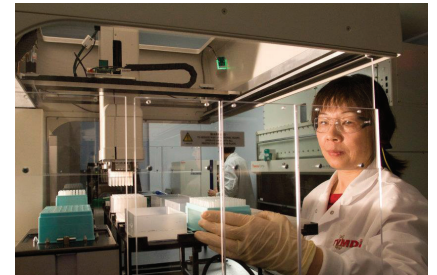
## Fact Sheet: Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory



### 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:**  
200,000

**Number of locations:**  
4

**Average tests per year:**  
925,000

**FY 2011 operating budget:**  
\$16.2 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, and chronic wasting disease.



## DIAGNOSTICS EXPERTS

Animal industries, government agencies, veterinarians and animal owners depend upon TVMDL's globally recognized expertise in veterinary diagnostics. TVMDL employs more than 25 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.



[tvmdl.tamu.edu](http://tvmdl.tamu.edu)



[facebook.com/tvmdl](https://facebook.com/tvmdl)

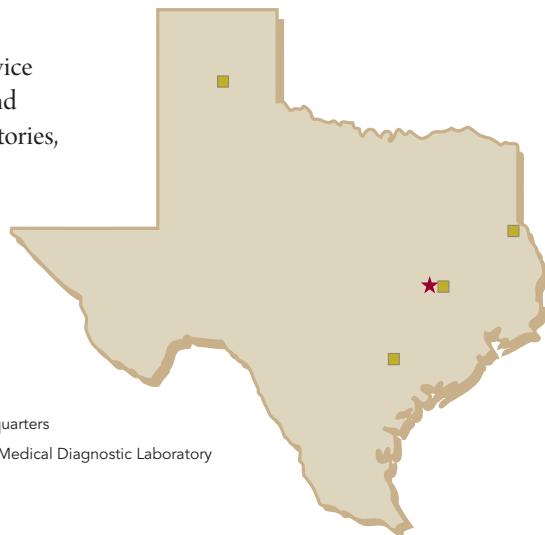


[twitter.com/tvmdl](https://twitter.com/tvmdl)

MEMBER OF THE  
TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY  
SYSTEM

## STATEWIDE PRESENCE

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



TVMDL Agency Headquarters



Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory

## TVMDL DIRECTOR



Dr. Tammy R. Beckham serves as director of the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) and also serves as director of the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD Center), a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence.

Previously, Dr. Beckham served as director of the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Plum Island Animal Disease Center in New York.

Dr. Beckham is a magna cum laude graduate of Auburn University, where she earned her doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1998. She also holds a doctorate in biomedical science from Auburn, received in 2001, while she served as a captain in the U.S. Army. She served at the Army's Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases in Frederick, MD.

Dr. Beckham is the co-chair of the Foreign and Emerging Disease Committee of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) in addition to several other national, state and local organizations.

### Physical/Mailing Address:

TVMDL  
1 Sippel Road  
4471 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-4471

### Phone/Fax/Email:

Phone: (979) 845-3414  
Toll-Free (888) 646-5623  
Fax: (979) 845-1794  
Email: [TBeckham@tvmdl.tamu.edu](mailto:TBeckham@tvmdl.tamu.edu)