

## PCR Proof of Concept Study Stage Two Results

Proof of concept study to establish if PCR testing of clinical samples is able to detect *Mycobacterium bovis* infection in camelids.

The second stage of the proof of concept study, conducted by AHVLA and financed by The Camelid Tb Support and Research Group which looked at camelids with less severe pathology, has now been completed. This means that AHVLA scientist have now looked at the whole spectrum of pathology from minimal to severe that is found in camelid *M. bovis* infections.

The results are very promising and far better than we had expected. They were able to detect nearly all of the camelids with the most severe pathology with a falling sensitivity as pathology became less severe. They were even able to detect some camelids that had minimal pathology. The faecal samples were marginally more sensitive than nasal swabs. Due to the difficulty in collecting blood from a dead camelid they were not able to evaluate blood samples as they were unable to collect sufficient suitable samples for testing.

Publication of the full trial results is in preparation and this study will be peer reviewed before it is published.

Please note that this study was performed on camelids that had already died or been euthanized as part of the Defra TB programme.

The next stage is to discuss the way forward to validate the test using samples of fecal and nasal swabs on live camelids in the field.

A full explanation of this study can be found on the PCR Tab on our website [www.alpacatb.org](http://www.alpacatb.org) and also the results of the first stage can also be found on the same Tab.

A huge thank you again to those that donated to this project – we could not have done it without you.

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