



DEPARTMENT OF PATHOBIOLOGY
Ontario Veterinary College
&
ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY
Laboratory Services Division

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

Title of Research Project: Detection and surveillance of significant pathogens in Ontario small poultry flocks

You are asked to participate in a research study conducted by:

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- 2) Michele Guerin, DVM, MSc, PhD, Associate Professor, Poultry Epidemiologist, Department of Population Medicine, University of Guelph, Phone: 519-824-4120 ext. 54486, E-mail: mguerin@uoguelph.ca
- 3) Csaba Varga, DVM, MSc, PhD, DACVPM, Lead Veterinarian, Disease Prevention, Poultry, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Phone: 519-824-4120 ext. 54650, E-mail: Csaba.Varga@ontario.ca
- 4) Marina Brash, DVM, DVSc, DACVP, Pathologist, Avian and Fur-Bearing Species, Animal Health Laboratory, University of Guelph, Phone: 519-824-4120 ext. 54550, E-mail: mbrash@uoguelph.ca
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This research is sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the University of Guelph. Results will contribute to Dr. Nancy Brochu's DVSc thesis at the University of Guelph.

Funding:

Funds for this project are provided by the Animal Health Laboratory and the Ontario Animal Health Network (in-kind contribution for the laboratory tests), and the OMAFRA – U of G partnership program.



PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The *University of Guelph* and the *Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)*, through the *Animal Health Laboratory (AHL)* and the *Ontario Animal Health Network*, will be conducting an infectious disease surveillance study in small (**non-commercial and non-quota**) poultry flocks in Ontario. This research aims to determine the level of viral and bacterial disease-causing agents in a variety of non-commercial, non-quota poultry species that are submitted to the Animal Health Laboratory for postmortem, and in addition will assess the current biosecurity and husbandry practices used in these small flocks. Further, bacterial isolates will be tested for antimicrobial resistance. Results from this study will provide baseline information about the main pathogens present in small flocks in Ontario, the extent of antimicrobial resistance in these bird populations (which can affect the birds and their owners), and how these flocks are managed.

PROCEDURES

Often times, small poultry flocks are under-represented in retrospective and prospective studies, due to the low number of laboratory submissions for diagnostic services, including postmortem, virology, bacteriology, and parasitology testing. In order to encourage submissions, the Animal Health Laboratory will provide a panel of tests for postmortem cases for a **substantially discounted price** (\$25). The actual (non-discounted) price of all the tests would be approximately \$500. The discounted rate will apply upon submission of the **AHL Small Flock Project Submission Form**, the **Husbandry and Biosecurity Small Poultry Flock Questionnaire** (estimated completion time 15 minutes), and this **Consent Form**. Species included in the study are chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, and game fowl (e.g., peacocks, grouse, pheasants, partridges, quail) – NO pigeons. The project will run from Thursday, October 1, 2015 to Friday, September 29, 2017. If you enroll in the study, the Animal Health Laboratory will carry out the following tests.

TESTS

Note: individual flock results will be provided to the veterinarian as a report issued by the AHL. The results for lymphoproliferative disease virus (LPDV) of turkeys and minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) will be provided as collective results in final reports upon completion of the project. Assaying for certain tests may vary based upon species-specificities.

- 1) **Routine postmortem.**
- 2) **Virology tests**, including the following: a) Newcastle disease virus; b) avian influenza virus; c) infectious laryngotracheitis virus; d) infectious bronchitis virus; e) infectious bursal disease virus; f) avian bornavirus; g) avian reovirus; h) avian adenovirus; i) lymphoproliferative disease virus.
- 3) **Bacteriology tests:** a) bacterial cultures from lesions, if warranted; b) *Salmonella* spp., *E. coli*, and *Campylobacter* spp. isolation from intestines; c) typing of *Salmonella* isolates; d) antimicrobial susceptibility testing of isolates of *Salmonella* spp. and other pathogens isolated from lesions, using disk diffusion (individual flock results will be provided in the diagnostic lab report); e) minimum inhibitory concentration for *Salmonella* spp., *E. coli*, and *Campylobacter* spp. (collective results will be provided in a final report upon project completion); f) PCR for *Brachyspira* spp., and g) mycoplasmaology.
- 4) **Mycology** (isolation of fungi), if warranted.



- 5) **Parasitology:** fecal flotation, parasite identification, and tissue search for parasites, if warranted

TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY

- 1) You and your flock must reside in Ontario.
- 2) Your flock must meet the criteria of a non-commercial, non-quota flock: 49 or fewer turkeys; 99 or fewer layer chickens; 299 or fewer broiler chickens; or 300 or fewer birds for ducks, geese, and gamebirds.
- 3) You must contact your veterinarian prior to making a submission, *as the Animal Health Laboratory only accepts submissions made through veterinarians*. A maximum of 5 sick or dead birds **of the same specie/type** (for instance, broilers, layers or fancy chickens will be considered separate submissions) may be dropped off, or shipped to either the Guelph or Kemptville laboratory by you or your veterinarian. You can submit sick, fresh dead, or frozen (least preferred sample) birds. Submissions composed of a mixture of different types of poultry will be sorted into additional submissions and billed / reported accordingly. The laboratory will not process unsuitable samples (i.e., advanced decomposition). Results are provided to the referring veterinarian only. Please visit the AHL website for complete instructions on how to submit carcasses for postmortem (<http://www.guelphlabservices.com/AHL/SubmitSpecimens.aspx>).
- 4) You must provide *at the time of submission*:
 - a) The **AHL Small Flock Project Submission Form** (completed by you or your veterinarian);
 - b) The **\$25 fee**;
 - c) The **Husbandry and Biosecurity Small Poultry Flock Questionnaire** regarding flock husbandry and biosecurity practices (to be completed by the owner - this will take approximately 15 minutes); and
 - d) A signed **Consent Form** (to be completed by the owner - signature page in duplicate). Testing will not commence until these 4 items have been received. The questionnaire and submission forms can be directly downloaded at (<http://ovc.uoguelph.ca/pathobiology/faculty/leonardo-susta-0>) or requested by e-mail (lsusta@uoguelph.ca, mbrash@uoguelph.ca). In addition, these forms will be available at the specimen reception of the Animal Health Laboratory locations in Guelph and Kemptville.
- 5) You must agree to be contacted by phone or e-mail at a later time for follow-up questions or to provide clarification to the answers you provided in the questionnaire.

Notes:

1. Your veterinarian will receive the results of your tests and has the right to charge you a consultation fee for services rendered, including submission of carcasses/forms, interpretation of results, and flock management/treatment based on test results. These charges will be separate from the \$25 fee charged by the Animal Health Laboratory for testing.
2. Private cremation charges including laboratory handling fees before cremation are not included in the \$25 testing fee.
3. Insurance claim and potential legal cases are excluded from this study (i.e., medicolegal cases, such as animal welfare investigations, or cases where test results could be used for legal purposes).



POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS

This research is not in any way an audit. The research team will respect your confidentiality. Study results will be presented in a collective manner and never in the form of individual flock results. The test results for your flock and the details of your biosecurity and management practices will not be shared with any other persons and/or parties, with the exception of cases when reportable and immediately notifiable diseases are involved.

For reportable (highly pathogenic strains of Newcastle disease virus, avian influenza H5 and H7, *Salmonella enterica* serovars Pullorum and Gallinarum) and immediately notifiable diseases (including, but not limited to, avian encephalomyelitis, infectious laryngotracheitis, fowl cholera), the Animal Health Laboratory has the responsibility to inform the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/eng/1300388388234/1300388449143>) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/ahw/aha-regs-guidelines.pdf#_ga=1.256076107.1501935133.1434630199) without delay.

After notification, authorities may visit and/or order depopulation of the flock. This decision is not within the mandate of the AHL or the research team.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS AND/OR SOCIETY

Testing will be conducted to determine the cause(s) of illness, production issues, and/or mortality in your flock. Your veterinarian will receive laboratory reports as individual tests are completed and a final cumulative report when all the testing are completed. Through participation in this study, in addition to testing for specific concerns regarding your flock, you will gain knowledge of the infectious agents that your flock is carrying, including those that can be harmful to you and your family (e.g. *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*), or cause illness to other birds in your flock or your neighbors' flock.

From a societal stand point, this study will allow the researchers to assess the type of diseases and infectious agents that are most common in small flocks in Ontario, antimicrobial resistance patterns for specific bacteria, as well as the most common husbandry and biosecurity practices among these flocks. Ultimately, this study will be used to aid in prevention, control and surveillance of relevant diseases among small flocks in Ontario. The data derived from this study will be used in extension programs to raise awareness of common poultry diseases linked to this type of production among veterinarians and small flock producers.

NO PAYMENT FOR PARTICIPATION

You will not receive any payment for participation in this study.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The identified data collected from the questionnaire will be under the secure custody of the principal investigator (Susta) for a period of 10 years, and will be accessed by Drs. Susta, Guerin, Brash, Varga and Brochu only. However, during the time of questionnaire (**Husbandry and Biosecurity Small Poultry Flock Questionnaire**) administration, the AHL personnel can have access to identified questionnaire data before delivering it to Dr. Susta, since the questionnaire can be filled out directly at the AHL reception.

The identified results of the diagnostic tests will be kept by the AHL in a laboratory database with secure access. Drs. Susta, Guerin, Varga and Brochu will have access to the test results



through the database, and for doing so are required to sign a confidentiality form. All AHL personnel conducting tests (i.e., postmortem, bacteriology, virology, parasitology) have access to the database, and are mandated to work under a strict client confidentiality clause. The veterinarians that submitted the case for necropsy will receive the results of the diagnostic tests, but not the identified questionnaire results.

Individual data will not be released to any organization, with the exception of reportable or immediately notifiable diseases, in which case the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs must be notified (see above “potential risk and discomfort” section). Study results will be presented in a collective form and shared with target audiences, including, but not limited to, small flock groups and associations, the Poultry Industry Council, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. The results will also be used for teaching/academic purposes at the University in a collective form through academic presentations and dissemination in scientific journals.

PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL

Because the cost of the testing is heavily subsidized by the Animal Health Laboratory and the extensive testing is initiated at the time of postmortem, with interim results becoming available shortly after the postmortem has been completed, withdrawal from the study is not possible once the postmortem has commenced. Should you choose to withdraw from the study before the postmortem commences, your bird(s) will be disposed of in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures of the Animal Health Laboratory, the questionnaire will be destroyed by shredding (as per University standards), and all data, including identifying information, will be deleted from the project database. The \$25 fee will not be refunded.

We encourage participants to fill out the biosecurity questionnaire as thoroughly as possible, however, participants have the right to skip questions to which they do not have answers or that do not wish to answer.





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RIGHTS OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

You are not waiving any legal claims, rights, or remedies because of your participation in this research study. This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the University of Guelph Research Ethics Board.

Any ethical concerns about the study may be directed to the Director of Research Ethics at reb@uoguelph.ca or 519-824-4120 ext. 56606.

SIGNATURE OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

I have read the information provided for the study “*Detection and surveillance of significant pathogens in Ontario small poultry flocks*” as described herein. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I agree to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this form.

 Name of participant (please print)

(Phone number or e-mail for follow-up)

 Signature of participant

Date

Signature of witness

 Name of witness (please print)

 Signature of witness

Date





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