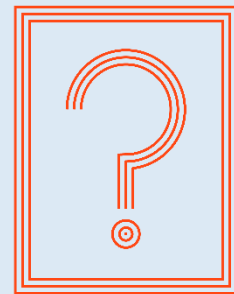


WOAH REFERENCE LABORATORY QUESTIONNAIRE



During the **Biological Standard Commission** meeting in September 2022, the Commission decided to ask the Reference Laboratory (RL) experts for feedback on their **experience of being a WOAHL for diseases of terrestrial animals**. A questionnaire comprising 19 questions was developed with questions focused on the RL system with a particular emphasis on the point of contact between RL and WOAHL and the Commission.

The questionnaire was divided into six sections:

**Role as a WOAHL
Reference
Laboratory**

Resourcing

Awareness

**Standardisation
of reagents**

**Contact
with WOAHL**

**Reference
Laboratory
network activities**

Objectives

The questionnaire presented an opportunity for experts to make suggestions for changes and **improvements to the system**.

Methodology

The questionnaire was finalised in February 2023 and circulated to the 180 RL experts, offering the choice to reply anonymously.

70% submitted their answers to the questionnaire (126/180)

Conclusions and action points

**Overall satisfaction
observed among
RL experts**



1. Use the results on the perceived benefits for advocacy to Delegates, Ministers to maintain RL.
2. Ensure succession plans have been prepared for designated RL experts.
3. Conduct a deeper analysis to gather insights about individuals who are not satisfied with different aspects of the RL processes.

**Simplify and increase
transparency
of RL
processes**



1. Improve the annual report web platform.
2. Provide easier-to-understand information on the process of revising chapters, focusing on transparency.
3. Provide training on WOAHL procedures, user-friendly documents and training on the standardisation of reagents.

**Increase interactions
between RLs and
the BSC
and WOAHL**



1. Improve the feedback mechanisms.
2. Extending invitations to RL to participate in WOAHL virtual events.
3. Promote networking within specific disease areas or within regions.
4. Explore the possibility of an in-person meeting between all the RL and WOAHL.

