



Benefits of the AAVLD Accreditation Program

The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians have been involved in laboratory accreditation since 1967 currently accrediting 63 laboratories in North America. The current AAVLD standard is closely aligned with ISO 17025, the international standard which is accepted by both the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

What is Laboratory Accreditation?

Accreditation is a voluntary, third party-reviewed process by a certifying body providing formal recognition of laboratory competence and quality. As part of accreditation, a laboratory's quality management system (QMS) is thoroughly evaluated on a basis to ensure continued management and technical competence and compliance with appropriate laboratory quality management system standards. The accreditation process is followed by ongoing maintenance of the QMS by the laboratory, as well as surveillance audits performed by a certifying body. The desired outcomes of this process are assurance of credible laboratory results for clients, and the expectation of continual improvement of the accredited laboratory's processes.

What are the Benefits of Accreditation?

AAVLD Accreditation does not certify a product or service, rather it attests that a laboratory adheres to documented processes and quality controls in conformance with ISO-based international standards. Conformance to standards inherently contributes to higher quality, safety, reliability, and consistency of services. This increases a laboratory's marketability, customer satisfaction, and acquisition of new customers. The increased credibility associated with AAVLD Accreditation leads to advantages such as:

- Decreased operating expenses from retesting.
- Enhanced management control through management review participation.
- Reduced product liability risk resulting from robust QMS.
- Increased customer satisfaction as a result of customer focused QMS.
- Increased marketability from the commitment to meeting internationally accepted quality standards.
- Participation in funded national and international programs for foreign animal disease detection, animal/zoonotic/and emerging disease surveillance, and export testing.
- Expanding customer ability to reach international markets.
- Ability to provide documentary evidence (records) of the whole laboratory test process.

Cost of Poor Quality

The potential risks illustrated in the pyramid are some of the potential costs associated with poor quality. A fully functional quality management system will help the laboratory mitigate these and other risks and improve the laboratory's efforts of providing timely accurate test results.

