

**Veterinary Services (VS) Memorandum 580.4 Guidance Document**  
**How to Handle Discordant Test Results for**  
**Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Investigation Samples**  
**Submitted to the**  
**National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) and a**  
**National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) Laboratory**

**1. NAHLN Positive Results with NVSL Negative Results:**

- A) A conference call will take place to formulate an appropriate response. This call will be initiated by the NVSL as soon as practical. The call will include representatives from the NVSL, the NAHLN Laboratory, Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC), Region, National Center for Animal Health Emergency Management, State Animal Health Official(s), and if the AVIC or the State Animal Health Official desire, the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) who performed the original FAD investigation. This call will sort out what the results mean, and what actions need to be taken to resolve the issue.
- B) The farm or establishment in question will be considered a “suspect premises.” This means that the premises is neither considered negative for the disease or positive for the disease. More information needs to be gathered. The State Animal Health Official will determine the level of quarantine required for the premises, with input from Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service personnel.
- C) The premises in question should be revisited by an FADD, with more samples collected and submitted to the NVSL. No samples should be submitted to the NAHLN laboratory as part of the investigation. This second visit to the premises should take place as soon as practical, but after the conference call so that any questions brought up during the call can be adequately addressed.

**2. All Other Discordant Results:**

- The NVSL and the NAHLN laboratory should work together to resolve all other discordant result(s), so that we have a good understanding of what caused the two laboratories to get different answers.