

National Institute of Animal Health

> JAPANESE



National Agriculture and Food Research Organization

National Institute of Animal Health



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Outline of NIAH

Supporting the health of all living beings

Animals share a close relationship with humans and play an important role in our lives. Animal products such as milk, meat, and eggs supply the proteins we need to stay healthy and build strong bodies. Safe, high quality animal products are produced from healthy livestock.

Animals also contribute to the advancement of biotechnology and life sciences, enrich our inner lives, and provide us with comfort, friendship and solace.

Because animals are subject to various diseases, the preservation of their health is an important goal. The National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) prides itself on supporting the health of all living beings. We cover a range of research in animal diseases, from basic research to diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

• Epidemiological Research

We take an epidemiological approach to investigating and analyzing the transmission of and risk factors for zoonosis, as well as critical animal diseases. We also apply this approach to predicting the spread of diseases, improving control measures, conducting economic evaluation, collecting field samples, and developing related analysis methods.

• Zoonotic Disease Research

We conduct research aimed at elucidating the properties of genes and proteins of zoonotic disease pathogens, as well as their infection and outbreak mechanisms. We also investigate the diagnosis and prevention of these diseases.

• Viral Disease Research

We conduct a variety of basic and applied research studies into animal viral diseases, such as viral pathogenesis and the development of early diagnostic methods, with the aim of preventing the outbreak and spread of viral diseases.

• Exotic Disease Research

We study ways to prevent the invasion and spread of infectious animal diseases not normally found in Japan, such as foot-and-mouth disease and hog cholera, which would threaten the national livestock industry.

• Bacterial/Parasitic Disease Research

We conduct research into the properties and pathogenicity of bacterial and parasitic

pathogens of animals, the mechanisms of infection, and the causes of infectious diseases. We also conduct research into the diagnosis of infectious diseases and their control without antibiotics.

• **Paratuberculosis Research**

We conduct research into analyzing the pathogenic mechanisms of paratuberculosis, a chronic bacterial infectious bowel disease of ruminants, and seeks to develop specific and sensitive methods for the early and accurate diagnosis of infected animals.

• **Advanced Biologicals Research**

We seek to establish fundamental technologies for the development of advanced biologicals via the use of host animal bio-defense systems. We also evaluate the effects of bioactive substances on biological functions, and investigate the development of drug delivery systems, etc. for livestock, with a view to the practical application of advanced biologicals.

• **Production Disease Research**

We investigate the mechanisms of the metabolic, reproductive and lacteal disorders that occur when the demand for production exceeds the animal's physiological capacity, and develop ways to prevent these disorders.

• **Safety Research**

We carry out research related to the safety of feeds and animal products. Our three targets are the development of technologies to eliminate food poisoning bacteria such as the enterohemorrhagic *Escherichia coli*, evaluation of the toxicity of mycotoxins and environmental pollutants, and the development of methods to detect and detoxify toxic chemicals.

• **Environmental/Enzootic Disease Research**

We study the control of diseases prevailing in the major Japanese livestock industry regions of Hokkaido, Tohoku, and Kyushu. We investigate diseases by analyzing pathological conditions and the environmental factors affecting pathogens, and elucidate the causes of diseases that may become enzootic or more severe .

• **Prion Disease Research**

We investigate the pathogenesis of prion diseases such as BSE, scrapie and CJD, with the goal of developing and improving diagnostic methods of these diseases, and to establish procedures for the inactivation of prions.

• **Production of Veterinary Biologicals**

We manufacture diagnostic agents, vaccines, and other medicines that are indispensable to the protection of farm stock against infectious diseases in Japan. We supply these biologicals primarily to institutions responsible for disease prevention and control, and animal quarantine.

• **Technical Cooperation and Training Programs**

In response to requests from various quarters within Japan, we offer a range of animal health-related courses, training sessions and other programs. We also accept trainees and

researchers from overseas, and cooperate with a variety of international technical development programs.

・ **Diagnostic Services**

To improve animal health in Japan, we provide diagnostic services for third parties using advanced diagnostic technologies to diagnose complicated, unusual, or unknown animal diseases, and diseases suspected of having an exotic origin.

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History of NIAH

1891	Founded as the Epizootics Laboratory, annexed to the Bureau of Agricultural Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, in Nishigahara, Tokyo.
1921	Established as an independent organization, the Institute for Infectious Diseases of Animals.
1947	Relocated to Kodaira, Tokyo and renamed the National Institute of Animal Health.
1979	Relocated to Tsukuba Science City.
2001	Reorganized as the National Insitute of Animal Health, within the National Agricultural Research Organization(NARO).
2003	NARO reorganized as the National Agriculture and Bio-oriented Research Organization(NARO).
2006	NARO reorganized as the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization(NARO).

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