

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
ANIMAL HEALTH DIVISION
OFFICIAL ORDER NO. 25-01**

DATE: October 29, 2025

DATE EFFECTIVE: October 29, 2025

DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL: October 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Disclosure of Confidential Animal Disease
Diagnostic Test Results

STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION: Montana Code Annotated §§ 81-1-301, 81-2-102(1)(b), (d), and (e), 81-2-115(3) and (4)

ORDERED BY: Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, DVM
State Veterinarian
Animal Health Administrator

REVIEWED BY: Michael Honeycutt
Executive Officer
Montana Board of Livestock

ORDER

The Montana Department of Livestock (Department) is statutorily required to keep confidential all information regarding the testing of livestock owned or in the possession of livestock producers, dealers, or markets, and the Department may only disclose animal disease diagnostic tests that identify the owner of the animal tested when certain conditions are met. Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-115. For purposes of disease prevention, control, and eradication, “livestock” means cattle, horses, mules, asses, sheep, llamas, alpacas, bison, swine, ostriches, rheas, emus, goats, alternative livestock, dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents, game animals, fur-bearing and wild animals, and poultry and other birds. Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-702.

This Order sets forth findings and conclusions by the Department’s Animal Health Administrator and State Veterinarian concerning necessary disclosures of animal testing information by the Department.

Factual Findings

The Department’s Animal Health Division is responsible for enforcing statutes and rules concerning surveillance and control of animal disease as well as the movement of animals into, out of, and within the State of Montana for disease control purposes. *See generally* Title 81, chapter 2, part 7, Montana Code Annotated; Title 32, chapter 3, Administrative Rules of Montana. Pursuant to these responsibilities, the Department maintains an animal health

information system that contains, but is not limited to, the following information relevant to traceability:

- Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). 9 C.F.R. Part 86; Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-703(2); Admin. R. Mont. 32.3.202
- Import permits. Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-703(3); Admin. R. Mont. 32.3.202
- Vaccination records. Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-301(2); Admin. R. Mont. 32.3.436
- Diagnostic test results. Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-301(2); Admin. R. Mont. 32.3.435

The use of an animal health information system is necessary for the Department to effectively and efficiently carry out its animal disease surveillance, control, and movement responsibilities.

The Department does not have the financial or personnel capability to develop, implement, and maintain its own animal health information system, and for that reason it contracts with Trace First, Inc. for use of CoreOne animal health information system software. All information the Department enters into CoreOne—including animal testing information—is stored in the cloud and accessible to Trace First, Inc. agents for training, technical support, and quality control purposes.

The Department also operates and maintains the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) pursuant to its authority under Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-102(1)(b). MVDL performs veterinary diagnostic tests on both public and privately owned animals, and it maintains a laboratory information management system to aid in the performance of these services.

MVDL's services are a necessary component of animal disease control in the State of Montana. The use of a laboratory information management system is necessary for MVDL to manage submission samples, data, workflow, and billing to enhance its efficiency, accuracy, and regulatory compliance.

The Department does not have the financial or personnel capability to develop, implement, and maintain its own laboratory information management system, and for that reason it contracts with Advanced Technology Corp. (ATC) for use of VADDS veterinary laboratory information management system. All information MVDL enters into VADDS—including animal owner information and diagnostic test results—is accessible to ATC agents for training, technical support, and quality control purposes.

Both ATC and Trace First, Inc. have entered into confidentiality agreements with the Department to safeguard against subsequent disclosures of confidential information.

Conclusions

The access that the Department provides to Trace First, Inc. and ATC by the use of their information management systems are disclosures of animal testing information subject to Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-115.

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-115(3) and (4)(a), IT HEREBY ORDERED that:

- A. The disclosure of animal testing information to Trace First, Inc. is necessary for the administration of the Department's animal health programs and is necessary to prevent the spread of animal disease and protect public health; and
- B. The disclosure of animal owner information to ATC is necessary for the administration of the MVDL and is necessary to prevent the spread of animal disease and protect public health.

Accordingly, livestock producers, livestock dealers, livestock markets, veterinary offices, and members of the public are hereby notified pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-115(5) that:

- All CVIs received by the Department, all import permits issued by the Department, and all information concerning Department-mandated vaccinations and diagnostic tests may be disclosed to Trace First, Inc. through the CoreOne animal health information system AND
- All information accompanying animal samples submitted to MVDL for diagnostic testing may be disclosed to ATC through the VADDs laboratory information management system.

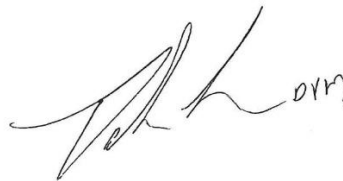
Contact information for Trace First, Inc. is:

Trace First, Inc.
375 E. Horsetooth Road, #5-201
Fort Collins, CO 80525
(253) 218-6700
www.tracefirst.com

Contact information for ATC is:

Advanced Technology Corp.
79 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ste. 103
Ramsey, NJ 07446
(201) 934-7127
www.vetstar.com

DR. TAHNEE SZYMANSKI, DVM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tahnee Szymanski' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Montana Department of Livestock
State Veterinarian and Animal Health Administrator