Healthy animals – safe humans
SVA – An expert authority with a mission of preparedness.

The National Veterinary Institute, SVA, promotes animal and human health, Swedish livestock farming and the environment through contingency planning, diagnostics, research and advice.

The institute is constantly prepared to quickly deal with outbreaks of infectious animal diseases in order to limit disease and suffering in animals and humans. We monitor and evaluate the risks for the spread of infectious animal diseases between animals, and from animals to humans or the environment.

By striving for good animal health, we also actively work to reduce the need for antibiotics, thereby reducing the risk of antibiotic resistance. But no matter what the area of expertise, the overall goal remains the same:

Healthy animals – safe humans.
We monitor the disease situation. If something happens, we are prepared.

One of the SVA’s most important functions is to maintain preparedness for an outbreak of infectious animal disease.

**Quick Action** is often key in limiting the spread of dangerous viruses, bacteria and parasites, or the spread of toxic substances to other animals or the environment. Ultimately, it is about the animals being healthy and happy, which also leads to a reduced risk of illness in humans.

SVA also has an official on call at all times of the day. We receive daily calls about suspected illnesses. Some can be resolved over the phone, whilst sometimes the vet needs to take and submit samples for analysis.
SVA monitors the spread of dangerous infections between animals and humans.

In the event of an outbreak of disease, we can always be reached. We can quickly make an initial analysis and give advice on taking samples.

**IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN** a high level of preparedness, we constantly monitor the disease situation in domestic and wild animals throughout Sweden. For certain diseases we have national monitoring programmes. Our preparedness also requires us to follow developments in other countries and to assess the risk of potential spread to Sweden.

This preparedness is constantly in development, partly through experiences of disease outbreaks and partly through participation in simulation, research and development projects. We regularly perform risk and vulnerability analyses.

We define national monitoring programmes.

- **PERS**
- **Bird flu**
- **Bovine Viral Diarrhea**
- **Brucellosis**

In consultation with the Swedish Board of Agriculture, we can make an assessment on how to proceed and then begin work on infection tracing.
Sweden’s only comprehensive veterinary medical laboratory.

We carry out around 458,000 analyses each year. We work with everything from parasitology, bacteriology, virology and immunobiology, to feed analysis, chemistry, doping control and pathology. Many analyses are accredited by SWEDAC, ensuring consistent levels of high quality.

**WE ALSO HAVE** Sweden’s only veterinary medicine Biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory, that is available for both research and preparedness. We are the national reference laboratory, NRL, for around 30 different analyses, including anthrax, rabies and bird flu.

We help our customers to assess which analyses are relevant for Swedish circumstances and we always offer consultation with regard to our test results. Our diagnostics give us a good picture of the health of animals in Sweden, and we use the information in our disease monitoring and research.

**SVA’s tests include:**

- Trichinella
- Strangles
- Rabies
- Salmonella
We do research and develop new methods.

Research and development have a central role and are vital to our ability to fulfil our mandate.

RESEARCH HELPS US to develop new and effective methods for the diagnosis, monitoring and control of diseases. It broadens our knowledge of how diseases arise and spread and contributes to an exchange of ideas within a qualified research network.

SVA performs applied research based on issues that are relevant for both our partners and commissioning parties.

The majority of research projects are conducted within the frame of both national and international cooperation. We obtain research grants from external research sponsors, in competition with other researchers. EHEC, bird flu and antibiotic resistance are some of the research areas into which we are involved.

"Our research enables us to maintain a high level of preparedness."
Our knowledge is your knowledge.

As a knowledge centre within veterinary medicine, SVA has great responsibility to collect and disseminate current and important information and knowledge.

SVA PROVIDES THE GOVERNMENT, the Swedish Board of Agriculture, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and other authorities and organisations with expert knowledge on disease monitoring, feed issues, risk assessments, infection tracing and disease control. We help Sweden’s county administrative boards and municipalities with issues such illegal hunting, poisonings and abuse of animals.

We make risk assessments and provide advice and expert opinions to vets, veterinary clinics and hospitals. Our experts are also regularly hired by different universities and colleges as guest speakers.

We share our knowledge on the internet, on social media and other channels.

At an international level, SVA maintains constant communication with our sister institutes. We regularly participate in meetings and are frequently hired as advisers at the EU level.

“We share our knowledge on the internet, on social media and other channels.”
Healthy animals do not need antibiotics.

DOESN’T THAT SOUND SIMPLE? Working carefully to prevent infection and maintaining a high level of hygiene can make the difference. Healthy animals help reduce the use of antibiotics and consequently the development and spread of antibiotic resistance. Sweden is among the group of countries in Europe with the lowest levels of antibiotic use, but we constantly look at how animal health can be improved in order to continue to prevent the need for antibiotics. SVA is a key entity in this work.

“Sweden is among the group of countries in Europe with the lowest levels of antibiotic use.”
ABOUT SVA

1911
SVA FOUNDED

458 000
ANALYSES EACH YEAR

360 MILLION SEK IN TURNOVER

340 EMPLOYEES

82 VETERINARIANS

80 BIOMEDICAL ANALYSTS

100 RESEARCHERS

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