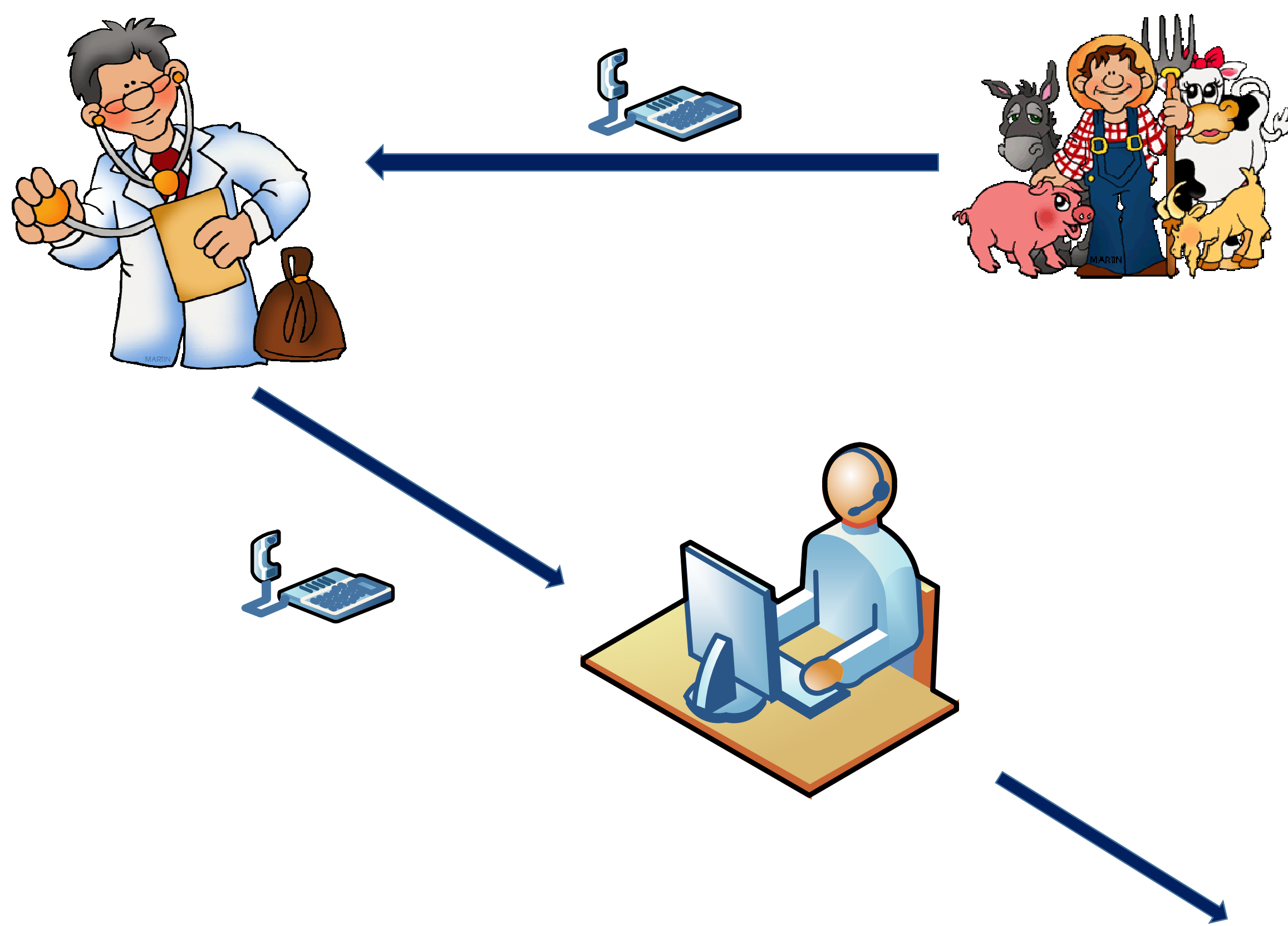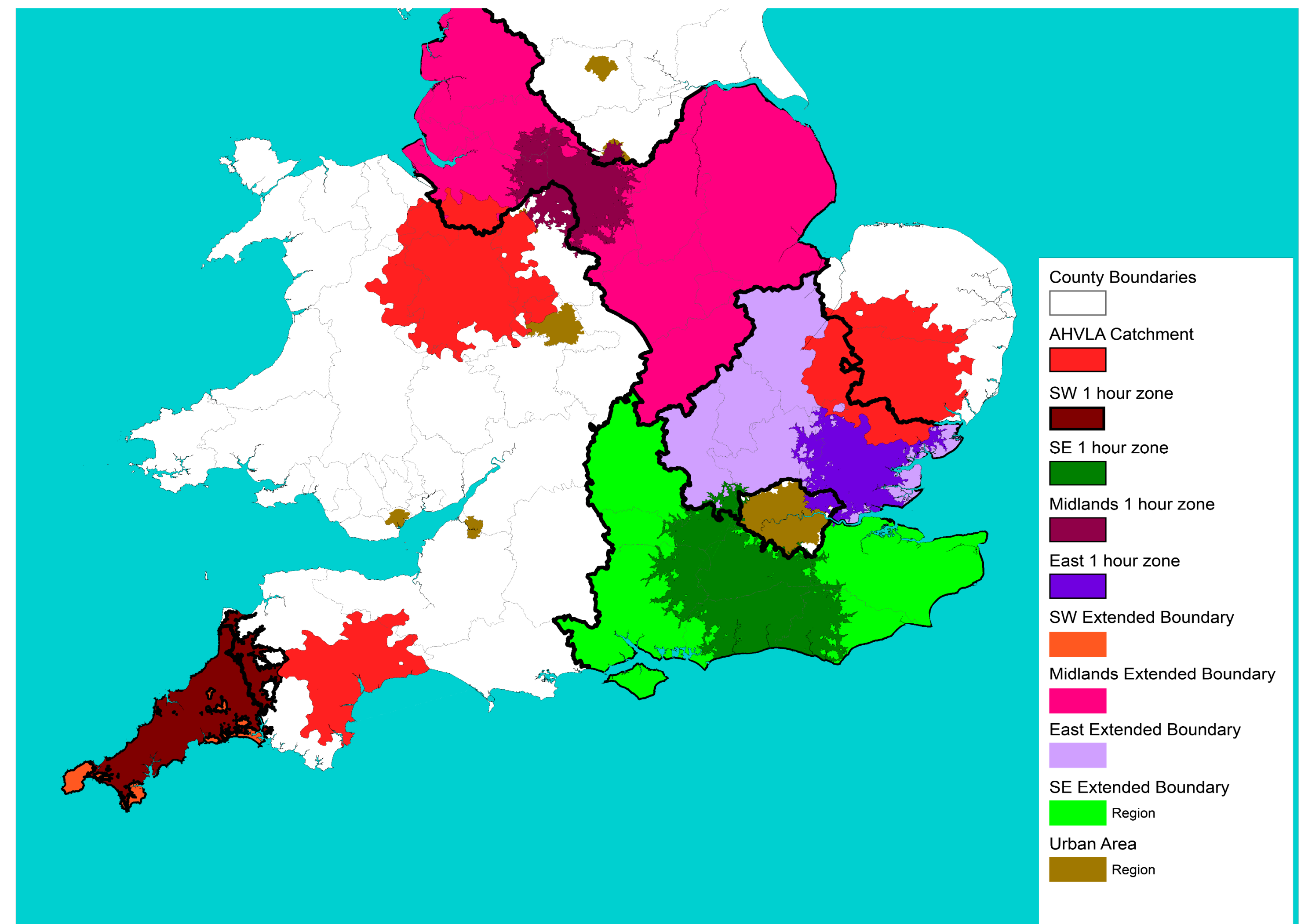# A New Post Mortem Examination Service from University of Surrey

Background: In response to a review of animal health surveillance in England and Wales, Defra has initiated a new system that involves partnership between government (APHA), universities and private veterinary practices. The overall purpose is to provide early warning surveillance to identify new or re-emerging threats to animal and public health.
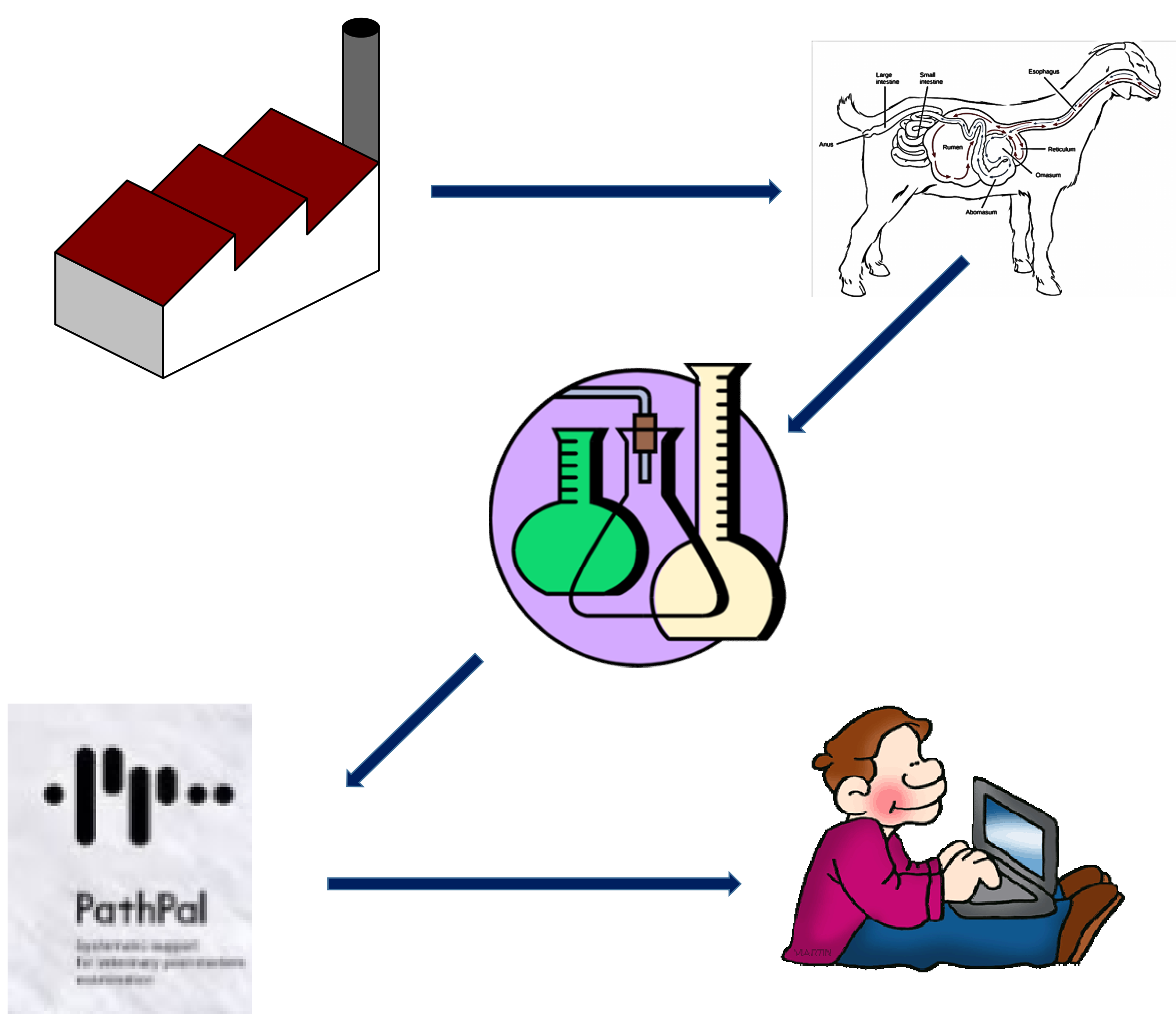
The university of Surrey is participating in this system by delivering a surveillance post mortem examination (PME) service for the areas indicated in the map.

County Boundaries
AHVLA Catchment
SW 1 hour zone
SE 1 hour zone
Midlands 1 hour zone
East 1 hour zone
SW Extended Boundary
Midlands Extended Boundary
East Extended Boundary
SE Extended Boundary
Region
Urban Area
Region

- A farmer with a dead animal calls his Private Veterinary Surgeon (PVS)
- The PVS calls the Surveillance Post Mortem Service to request a post mortem examination: *+44 (0)1483 689823*
- Relevant clinical and demographic data is collected
- A decision is made whether the case qualifies for the disease surveillance post mortem service by trained vets
- The data are stored in a database: PathPal

PathPal is a purpose-made app that captures post mortem data uniformly across the whole service, and transfers the data to a dedicated server.
PathPal has easy drop-down menus, click buttons and some free text entry. All data entered is stored in a central database using unique identifiers.

- The carcase is transported to a fallen stock site
- A University-trained veterinarian (PME vet) collects relevant data from PathPal
- The PME-vet performs the post mortem following a standardised protocol
- Further lab testing is performed to confirm the diagnosis
- All data is captured and stored in PathPal
- The PVS is issued with a post-mortem report, generated by PathPal
- Data are sent to APHA; integrated in a national database and analysed for nationwide surveillance purposes

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