Reviewer's report

Title: Longitudinal monitoring of Ehrlichia ruminantium infection in Gambian lambs and kids by pCS20 PCR and MAP1-B ELISA

Version: 3 Date: 6 July 2007

Reviewer: Suman M Mahan

Reviewer's report:

I suggest one change in the Abstract which as it reads is contradictory. The first line: The epidemiology of E.r infection in TRADITIONALLY managed young animals..... In the second sentence the word "extensively" managed is used so what is the difference between traditionally managed and extensively managed. Such details must be uniform throughout the paper.

In the METHOD section of Abstract, MAP1B ELISA does not represent the kinetics of E. ruminantium infection but a historical account of exposure to the agent especially since these animals were in the field, so one does not know what they were exposed to especially due to the lack of complete specificity of the ELISA. One can describe the kinetics of an antibody response by ELISA and by PCR yes kinetics of infection can be defined. This needs to be changed.

I have gone through the rest of the requested revisions and am happy with the paper and is acceptable for publication after they change the above statements.