



Veterinary Diagnostic
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WE ARE ON THE WEB!
www.vetmed.illinois.edu/vdl/

VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

Featured in this issue: Director's Message, Featured Faculty, Bacteriology, Cytology Service

Issue No. 2

August 2008

Director's Message

Thank you for your enthusiastic support of the first newsletter. We received several requests for access to WEBVAD, the online access to laboratory results and reports for your cases. Please contact me or the Director's office staff with any questions or comments at vldirectoroffice@vetmed.illinois.edu or 217-333-7259. Suggestions for topics for upcoming newsletters are welcomed.

Walter E. Hoffmann, DVM, PhD, Interim Director

Featured Faculty

The VDL is fortunate to have Dr. Tony Ross as a visiting pathologist on staff from July 14 until October 4, 2008. Dr. Ross is a Registered Specialist in Anatomic Pathology in Australia with over 30 years of experience at several different institutions and laboratories and has brought us a host of new ideas to consider for implementation. He is highly proficient and knowledgeable in pathology of all domestic species as well as avian and wildlife diseases/pathology. He is an enthusiastic teacher and has extensive experience in policy advice and emergency disease management. This is his second three-month block of time with us, and we are all pleased that he could return. His primary responsibility is conducting gross and histopathology evaluation of animals submitted by veterinarians to the VDL while simultaneously instructing 4th year veterinary students and training pathology residents. Dr. Ross very much enjoys interaction with the veterinarians for whom he is handling cases, so feel free to give him a call. He can be reached at 217-333-1620 or tonyross@illinois.edu.

Bacteriology: Dr. Carol Maddox

Susceptibility testing for the long-acting third generation cephalosporin, Comvenia[®] (Cefovecin manufactured by Pfizer), is now available in disk diffusion format (\$3.50/isolate). It will be incorporated into our companion animal MICs as soon as Sensititre[®] releases a redesigned panel. The spectrum is similar to Ceftiofur. Contact the Bacteriology Lab (217-333-3577) if you would like us to test for susceptibility to this SQ administered antibiotic, useful for extended antimicrobial therapy.

Leptospirosis may be on the rise again. Despite hard freezes this winter, the recent wet weather has left a great deal of standing water in areas visited by wildlife, the two leading risk factors for Leptospirosis. Our recently offered Leptospirosis Screen (\$48) takes advantage of qPCR detection DNA from Leptospire shed in the urine early during infection while the serum titers have greater predictive value after 17-21 days post infection. Combining the two tests for your patient increases the sensitivity from approximately 70% for either qPCR or MAT to >90% for the combined results, based upon a retrospective study of clinical diagnosis of 142 canines referred to the UI-VTH or UI-VDL from 2004-2007 (Borst, Ridgway and Maddox submitting to JVMA).

Cytology Service: Dr. Anne Barger

The VDL offers a fully comprehensive exfoliative cytology service providing a report that includes full description of findings, interpretation, and additional comments regarding differential diagnoses and any additional suggested testing. Reports (via fax or WEBVAD) and consultation with a clinical pathologist to discuss the findings and additional testing are available on the same day as arrival of the specimen in the VDL. The cytology service has recently expanded to include immunocytochemistry and cytochemistry for better identification of specific neoplasms including lymphoma and osteosarcoma. Routine cytology cost is \$25. If multiple sites are aspirated, each additional site is \$13. Immunocytochemistry is available at \$35 per antigen or a lymphoma package, including cytology along with CD3 and CD79 markers, for \$60. Staining for alkaline phosphatase activity to support the diagnosis of osteosarcoma, is available for \$10 plus the initial cytology fee of \$25.

Your cytology submissions are excellent educational opportunities for the professional students and residents, and we appreciate the submissions. Please note that a complete history and/or detailed description of the lesion from which the cytology specimen is obtained are not only essential for providing the best possible diagnostic conclusion but are also of considerable educational value for the students and residents. If you have questions regarding the cytology service, please call 217-333-5342.