



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, Biopsy Service

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Director's Message

The VDL is accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) under its new and revised international accreditation standards which went into effect January 2007. So, why is accreditation important? Accreditation under these standards is recognized nationally and internationally, allowing a greater likelihood of acceptance by governmental agencies of negative test results for infectious diseases when intrastate or international shipping of livestock is the animal owner's goal.

Of equal importance is assurance that on a daily basis, you as a veterinarian can have the utmost confidence that the test results you receive from our laboratory are generated in a state-of-the-art environment, under conditions that provide accurate results. You can also be assured that if any legal questions arise regarding data provided by us, we can provide the historical evidence of quality standards utilized in generation of that data from entry of the sample through communicating results to you.

If you have any suggestions on how we might better serve your needs, please contact me or my staff at vldirectoroffice@vetmed.illinois.edu, or call 217-333-7259.

Walter E. Hoffmann, DVM, PhD, Interim Director

Featured Faculty

Dr. Carol Maddox, associate professor, has been section head of VDL microbiology for 8 years, after having served as the microbiologist in diagnostic laboratories in Missouri and Pennsylvania. She has built a very strong diagnostic microbiology section utilizing all of the modern techniques and a highly trained technical staff. She is highly involved with the daily activity of the laboratory, personally reviewing all case reports to ensure the greatest possible quality assurance and to appreciate the needs of the practicing veterinarian. She, or one of her staff, monitors and maintains cultures seven days a week to ensure the most timely and informative diagnostic information. Much of her research is initiated by clinical and diagnostic needs for pathogen and virulence detection. For example, an increase in prevalence of leptospirosis among dogs has been linked to urban sprawl, specifically water retention ponds and wildlife in new housing developments. Dr. Maddox's group is working to develop serovar specific qPCR assays and is investigating newly emerging serovars that are not included in current vaccines. Dr. Maddox also leads a team investigating *Streptococcus equi* virulence genes and modified live strangles vaccines. Dr. Maddox is very interested in communication with veterinarians to ensure her laboratory can best meet their needs, so feel free to call 217-333-1620 or e-mail maddox@illinois.edu.

Biopsy Service: Dr. Rick Fredrickson

The mission of the VDL biopsy service is to provide the most complete and descriptive diagnostic report with an informative conclusion for every case received. Our pathologists utilize and interpret routine H & E staining techniques and when necessary apply special or immunohistochemical (IHC) stains to arrive at the most definitive diagnosis.

The histopathology section utilizes over 40 special stains to identify everything from fungal organisms, intracellular bacteria, and amyloid to fibrous tissue. There are also over 75 validated IHC stains available which help to identify or confirm cell origin and tumor type, tumor classification, and/or confirm the presence of infectious disease. If you have any questions regarding our biopsy service, please call 217-333-1620 or e-mail hlab@vetmed.illinois.edu.

Future Topics

Our next issue will include an in-depth feature on Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) testing, and acute or persistent BVDV infections.

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