

**Vetpath** is a specialist veterinary laboratory dedicated to providing our clients with the finest laboratory diagnostic service. A team of veterinary pathologists and medical scientists with extensive experience in veterinary diagnostic pathology forms the core of the Vetpath team.

# VN News

**MARCH 2020**

## Welcome Lisa!



Vetpath is delighted to introduce our new Client Liaison Officer, Lisa Horton.

Lisa is looking forward to doing the rounds and getting to know our Vetpath customers, understanding your needs and helping to create a service that is meaningful and supportive.

Lisa started her career as a Veterinary Nurse, and for the last nine years has been the Marketing Manager for SmartBurn Australia, working in

various areas including strategic planning, project and program management and customer engagement.

In her spare time, Lisa likes to spend time with her family, swim, keep fit and help out at Little Athletics.

## COVID-19

It has been a challenging start to 2020 with the world grappling to contain and minimize the catastrophic effects of COVID-19.

At the time of publishing, the main laboratory at Ascot is continuing to function as normal with the same courier service and normal turn-around times for most tests. Molecular testing will have a delayed turn-around time due to the global shortage of PCR reagents and increased human testing. In addition, endocrine testing at Michigan State University has ceased. Please note that the reduction in air travel will likely have an

impact on samples travelling around the country, both to and from Vetpath.

To help protect your staff and clients, Vetpath couriers are taking extra care with hand sanitization before entering clinics and maintaining recommended social distancing.

Vetpath will continue to strive to provide our clients with the best possible service during the difficult months ahead. We ask for your understanding at this time as we, like you, adapt to the rapidly changing situation.

If you have any concerns or comments, please contact the laboratory on (08) 9259 3600.



## Exotic animal reference intervals

The Vetpath laboratory information system (LIS) has recently been updated to include haematology and biochemistry reference intervals for some of the more common species encountered in practice.

The updated reference intervals are for a variety of species including pocket pets (eg rabbits, ferrets and guinea pigs), some birds and a couple of reptile species.

The reference intervals have been sourced from a wide variety of published articles and textbooks. The parameters with ranges for each species will vary, depending on the availability of reliable data. A link to a list of these sources will be provided (see below) with haematology and biochemistry reports, and further information can be obtained on request.

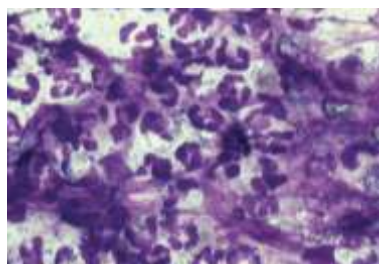


<http://www.vetpath.com.au/Portals/0/PDF/Publications/Exotic%20reference%20ranges.pdf>

## Culture of submitted samples

Cytological assessment of material submitted to the laboratory may result in a recommendation of bacterial or fungal culture.

The submitted sample may be used for culture, however this will depend on how the sample was collected and stored. Organisms identified on cytology smears cannot be cultured directly from the smears and additional material would need to be submitted for culture. Aspirated material can be placed onto a culture swab in transport media. Alternatively, a tissue biopsy can be submitted on a piece of sterile gauze moistened with sterile saline and placed into a urine pot.



**Image source:** BMJ In Practice. 2016;38 (Suppl 2)

Fluid samples can be cultured if submitted in a sterile container without EDTA anticoagulant. Samples in EDTA are not suitable due to the bacteriostatic effect of the EDTA. Biopsies in formalin are also not suitable for culture.

## Changing antimicrobial sensitivity sets at Vetpath

Due to a change of equipment, and in order to provide reliable results, the number of antibiotics included in most of our sensitivity panels has been decreased to 7.

An attempt has been made to include first line drugs as well as commonly used antibiotics. Other antibiotic sensitivities can be provided by the laboratory if requested.

If you have a specific antibiotic request at the time of submission, a substitution can be made free of charge in many cases. Further antibiotics sensitivities can be performed at an extra cost.

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NATA Accredited  
Laboratory Number 14776

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**VETERINARY PATHOLOGISTS**  
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