

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

JUNE 2020

CSF Webinar

The next webinar in the SVS network webinar series will be held on Wednesday the 24th of June at 6pm AWST and is available to all Vetpath clients.

The webinar is entitled **CSF evaluation – Cytology and Infectious Disease Diagnostics** and will be given by Vetpath pathologist Dr Leanne Twomey.

You can register for the webinar at Vet-webinar.com and use the voucher code **Cytology**. Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.vet-webinar.com/en/webinar-live/webinare/csf-evaluation-cytology-and-infectious-disease-diagnostics/>

Vetpath Product and Price List

The veterinary industry has faced numerous challenges in the first half of 2020 due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

Vetpath Laboratory Services understands that economic instability will affect both veterinary practices and pet owners in the next few months. To help ease this burden, the annual price increase, which normally occurs on the 1st of July, will be delayed until the 1st of September. The current 2019-2020 Product and Price List will still be effective during July and August, with a new version to be issued in early September.

Vetpath Laboratory Services is still experiencing the effects of a national shortage of PCR reagent. PCR tests will continue to be performed at Vetnostics in NSW until the SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing load is reduced in WA.

International transport also remains difficult and we are currently unable to refer samples to reference laboratories in the United States.

We appreciate your patience with these changes to PCR test turnaround time and overseas referrals. Please contact our Client Liaison Officer, Lisa Horton on 0421 144 451 if you have any questions regarding the Vetpath Product and Pricelist or current test availability.



Did you read this article?

Vetpath pathologist Dr Jason Stayt and small animal medicine specialist Dr Amanda Paul published an article on faecal PCR in the Australian Veterinary Journal in October 2019.



The article gives a great insight into what potential intestinal pathogens are causing diarrhoea in our local dog and cat populations. The study has recently been recognized as one of the top most downloaded papers for the journal!

Reference:

Paul AEH, and Stayt J. The intestinal microbiome in dogs and cats with diarrhoea as detected by a faecal polymerase chain reaction-based panel in Perth, Western Australia. *Aust Vet J.* 2019 Oct; 97(10): 418–421.

Factors affecting urine SG

In the last edition of VNews, we discussed refractometer maintenance to ensure the accuracy of urine specific gravity (USG) readings.

While correct use of the refractometer is important, knowledge of how other factors might affect USG is also needed. A recent study published in the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation* assessed how preanalytic and analytic variables affect USG measured by refractometer.

Over 250 canine samples and 120 feline samples were examined. Variables evaluated included storage time, measurement of USG on whole urine or a supernatant, and the presence of proteinuria.

The researchers found good correlation between USG and osmolality (the gold standard test for assessing renal concentrating ability). There was also good agreement between USG of whole urine and supernatant, indicating that centrifuging the sample before USG measurement is unnecessary.

USG did not change with storage of urine for up to 6 months. This was the case for both refrigerated and frozen urine

samples. Proteinuria also did not significantly change the USG.

The article confirms that USG is not significantly affected by long-term storage, centrifugation and proteinuria.

Reference: *JVDI* 2020 32 (1): 36-43.



Unlabeled samples

Samples are still being submitted unlabeled. It is a requirement of our NATA accreditation that all clinics must be contacted to confirm the patient name for each specimen. This takes up valuable time for both laboratory and veterinary hospital staff. Please help us by clearly labeling all samples submitted to the lab.



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