

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

MAY 2020



**Vetpath
is on
Facebook!**

Vetpath Laboratory Services joined Instagram in April 2019 and have had an amazing response with over 800 followers.

Our next venture in social media is on Facebook. Run by our new Client Liaison Officer Lisa Horton, the Vetpath Facebook page will provide interesting content that will both inform and entertain. Go over to Facebook and like our page.

<https://www.facebook.com/ascotwa/>

Also remember to follow us on Instagram.

<https://www.instagram.com/vetpath.laboratory.services/>

Free Webinar!

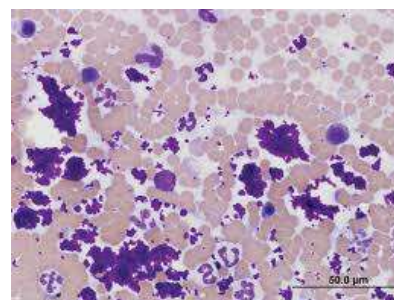
A free webinar is available for Vetpath clients on Tuesday the 12th of May at 8pm AEST.

The webinar is a part of a series that is available through ASAP Laboratory. ASAP and Vetpath are part of SVS Specialist Veterinary Services, which provides opportunities for continuing education throughout the year.

The webinar presenter is Dr Nadine Hamilton, a psychologist who specializes in veterinarian wellbeing. The title of the webinar is **“Dealing with Imposter Syndrome”**. You can register for the webinar at vet-webinar.com and use the voucher code **Psychology**. Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.vet-webinar.com/en/webinar-live/webinare/dealing-with-imposter-syndrome/>

**Down the
microscope**



Cytology smears of splenic aspirates were submitted from a dog with a splenic mass. The smears contained variably sized aggregates of magenta coloured granular material.

What is this material?

Answer over the page....

Image source: JSAP 2017 58 (Nov): 599-609.

Refractometer maintenance

Refractometers are important instruments in both in house and reference laboratories and are used for determination of urine SG and TS protein on body fluids and plasma.



Maintenance of laboratory equipment should always include refractometers. While hand-held refractometers rarely need adjustments, regular checking of the accuracy of this instrument is still required.

Calibration of the refractometer is performed using distilled water. A few drops of room temperature distilled water are placed on the prism reading surface. The specific gravity should read 1.000. Adjustments can be made by turning the calibration screw on the top of the refractometer.

A soft cloth or tissue should be used to thoroughly clean the prism reading surface and the daylight plate (lid) after each measurement.

When was the last time you checked the accuracy of your refractometer?

COVID-19 Update

The COVID-19 pandemic and the world's response has continued to evolve in the last month.

The veterinary industry has adapted to our new, hopefully temporary normal and as a group we continue to provide outstanding health care for pets, farm animals, and zoo species.

Vetpath is continuing to function as normal with no delay in turnaround times for most of our tests. The global shortage of PCR reagents has not eased and we continue to have a 2 – 3 day delay in PCR testing. The international travel restrictions also prevent transport of specimens to laboratories in the United States.

Fortunately, we have had only minimal issues with supply of our reagents and test kits. We will keep you informed if there are any changes to test availability.

Note that the canine and feline faecal multiplex PCR panels include an enteric Coronavirus detection. This is specific for these Coronaviruses and does not cross-react with SARS-CoV-2.

Please contact the laboratory if you have any questions or concerns during this time.

Down the microscope

The material is **ultrasound gel**.

Ultrasound gel is observed microscopically as granular, purple material that can appear similar to free mast cell granules. Cells and infectious agents can be obscured and poorly stained if there is a large amount of gel present.

Similar material has been observed on cytology slides from peripheral lesions when local anaesthetic gel has been applied before aspiration.

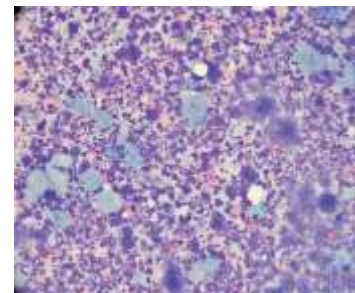


Image source: BMJ In Practice. 2018;40: 141-146



NATA Accredited
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