



# Lab Notes

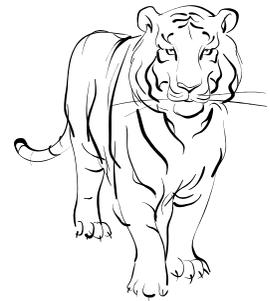
April 2013

## Meet Our Staff

Dr. Linda F. Meola is an anatomic veterinary pathologist and received her board certification in anatomic pathology in 2011. She completed her pathology residency at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington DC in 2010. Prior to residency, she practiced small animal medicine for 12 years in Houston, Texas. She received her DVM from the University of Minnesota in St. Paul in 1995. She has a keen interest in zoo and exotic pathology, cytology and clinical pathology. She loves the microscope, and looking at slides and being able to provide diagnostic answers are what she finds most rewarding about her job. Outside of the lab, she is passionate about health and fitness, and in the last year, she discovered her local Crossfit gym and has been hooked ever since. She likes to spend her free time reading, listening to audio books, hiking, rock climbing at the gym, watching movies, dining out, and playing Words with Friends.

**NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK  
AND POULTRY  
COMMISSION  
VETERINARY  
DIAGNOSTIC LAB**

Dr. James O. Britt, Laboratory  
Director.



Antifreeze and engine coolant manufactured in the United States will now contain a bitter flavoring agent to prevent animals and children from being poisoned by the sweet-tasting liquid. Although legislation has been passed in several states, the Consumer Specialty Products Association (CSPA) and the Humane Society Legislative Fund jointly announced Dec. 13 that the industry would now voluntarily add the flavoring agent to products for sale on the consumer market in all 50 states

**Micro Minute**

**Beta-lactamase** - is an enzyme produced by some bacteria. The enzyme allows the bacteria to inactivate the beta-lactam antibiotics, making the bacteria resistant to beta-lactam antibiotics even if the antibiotics test susceptible.

**Beta-lactam antibiotics include:**

- Penicillins
- Cephalosporins
- Cephamycins
- Carbapenems
- Monobactams
- Beta-lactamase inhibitors

**EIA Pickups**

Due to miscommunication regarding Coggins pick up and/or fax copies, we ask that all vets and/or secretaries contact the Coggins department; to verify that the needed Coggins results are available. This will help eliminate problems regarding this issue.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Coggins Department

Angela Holiman- (501) 907-2418

Brenda Bunt- (501) 683-1471

Candace Phillips- (501) 907-2419



**Streptococcus canis prostatitis in a dog with sudden death**

A dog died unexpectedly when being sedated. Usually we do not find any particular underlying reason with anesthetic deaths, but in this one we did. He had 2 retained, intra-abdominal testes, both had diffuse Sertoli cell tumors. A portion of the prostate was very reddened and it exuded pus. Histopathology showed that there was diffuse squamous metaplasia of the cystic prostate glands and lining that should be transitional epithelium with a massive influx of neutrophils into the cystic spaces and tissue. This squamous metaplasia was due to the feminizing influence of the Sertoli cell tumors. *Streptococcus canis* was isolated from the prostate. The dog likely died from acute septicemia from the infection. The bacterial infection can affect multiple organs so a toxin is suspected. The bacteria can cause necrotizing fasciitis in dogs and has been called the "flesh eating bacteria" of dogs and causes toxic shock syndrome in dogs. We were able to speciate this beta hemolytic *Streptococcus* more completely with our new Vitek2 analyzer.

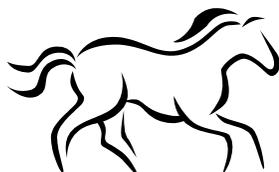


Fast Fact—At least one in five horses used for leisure are overweight or obese. It's a condition which can lead to laminitis and equine metabolic syndrome.

Arkansas is now up to 28 confirmed cases of rabies. 26 of which are skunks, with Pope County having the highest concentration of positives.



May 5-11, 2013:  
National Pet Week



Pet Food Safety - There have been even more pet food recalls for potential Salmonella contamination, including products by Innova, EVO, Healthwise, and California Naturals brands. Iams is also recalling a couple of products because of potential mold growth. Check AVMA .org for a complete list.

Helpful Hints From the Lab—

If you are submitting a sample for PCR please be sure to check our guidebook or call the lab to ensure that you are sending the correct sample for the test requested.

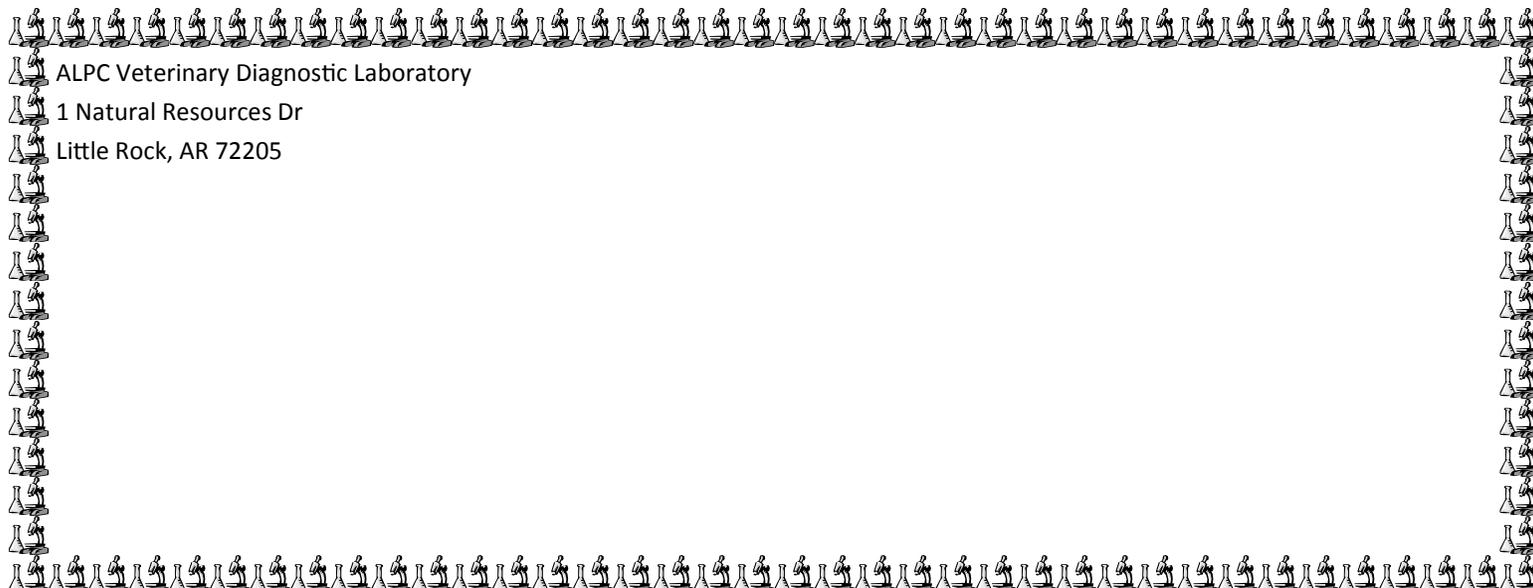
## Salmonellosis

Outbreaks of human infection with different strains of Salmonella have resulted from contact with animals or animal-related products such as amphibians and reptiles, poultry (particularly chicks and ducklings), hedgehogs, and pet foods.

Groups that are especially at risk of infection are the very young, elderly, pregnant and immunocompromised (either by a medical condition or a drug therapy). Simple, common sense measures are very effective when it comes to preventing infection with *Salmonella* and other zoonotic diseases.

- ◆ Wash your hands thoroughly (at least 20 seconds) with soap and water after any contact with animals and their bedding, food and water bowls or stool.
- ◆ If you are immunocompromised, take stronger precautions to minimize your risk. This may include avoiding contact with animal species that pose more risk of infection, such as reptiles, amphibians, poultry and hedgehogs. Immunocompromised persons should also use caution when handling pet foods.
- ◆ Avoid feeding your pet raw or undercooked animal-source protein (including raw meat, organ meat or bones, raw eggs, or unpasteurized milk or cheese) to your pet, because these foods are potential sources of *Salmonella* and other pathogens.
- ◆ Keep all pet food and treats separate from human food, and do not use the same utensils or kitchen supplies for human and pet foods.
- ◆ Avoid preparing your pet's meals in areas used to prepare food for yourself or your family.
- ◆ Clean pet food and pet water bowls regularly with hot, soapy water (or wash in the dishwasher).

If you do not receive a monthly statement from us and would like to continue to receive these mailings please email [jmccune@alpc.ar.gov](mailto:jmccune@alpc.ar.gov). Also, you can read this newsletter online at [www.alpc.ar.gov](http://www.alpc.ar.gov). Click on the Lab tab and then the Newsletter link at the bottom of the main Lab page.



ALPC Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory  
1 Natural Resources Dr  
Little Rock, AR 72205