



Lab Notes

July 2013

Meet Our Staff

Susan House is the medical technologist who supervises our clinical pathology department. She graduated from Harding University and Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Medical Technology with bachelor degrees in both biology and medical technology. Prior to joining the ALPC staff in 2008, Susan worked in various hospitals in Arkansas. Her experience as a lab manager has been a great asset for our clinical pathology department. Transitioning into veterinary medicine has been challenging but rewarding. Susan has found hematology to be very interesting, given the variety of species tested in our lab. She takes great care in serving the veterinarians and their patients.

Susan is married with 2 college age sons and a miniature schnauzer. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, reading, hiking and vacationing at the beach.

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

Dr. James O. Britt, Laboratory
Director.



Helpful Hints from the Lab—

When dropping off disposals after hours, please place them in the cooler. If you drop them off during our regular working hours, please let us know they are there.

If your clinic loses or gains a veterinarian, please let us know so that we can add or remove them from your account.

When sending specimens, please use our submission forms. Do not send in-house forms, self-created forms, or forms for other labs. This causes quality issues within our lab. We will send you books of submission forms upon request. Thank you for your cooperation.

When submitting Trichomonas pouches, please be sure they are NOT refrigerated and that the courier does not refrigerate them. This affects the results of the test. Also check your expiration dates on the pouches, expired pouches may also render the results inaccurate.

Fast Facts-

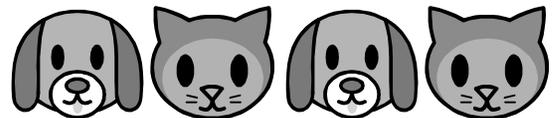
The pet ferret (*Mustela putorius furo*) was domesticated more than 500 years before the house cat

The most popular female dog name is Maggie. The most popular male dog name is Max

A pack of kittens is called a kindle, while a pack of adult cats is called a clowder.

A goldfish can live up to 40 years.

Larger parrots such as the macaws and cockatoos live more than 75 years.



Canine Brucellosis testing is \$29.50 plus the \$10.00 shipping charge. It is being sent to Cornell as the test kit that was being used is no longer available to us. We ship every day but Friday, please have samples to us by Thursday morning.

Spaying and neutering of dogs is associated with an increase in life span and alters the risk of specific causes of death, according to a study published April 17 in the online journal PLOS ONE.

Researchers with the University of Georgia looked at a sample of more than 40,000 dogs that died in veterinary teaching hospitals from 1984-2004. The mean age at death for sexually intact dogs was 7.9 years, versus 9.4 years for sterilized dogs. Dogs with functional reproduction systems were more likely to die of infectious disease or from trauma. Those that had undergone a gonadectomy were more likely to die from cancer or autoimmune disease.

“The overall average life span is likely shorter than what we would observe in private practice, because these were dogs seen at teaching hospitals, but the difference in life span between sterilized and intact is real,” said Dr. Kate Creevy, an assistant professor of internal medicine at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine and co-author of the study. “The proportionate effects on causes of death are translatable to the global dog population, and it will be interesting to see if explanations for these effects can be found in future studies.”

You can receive your newsletter through e-mail! Send a request to jmccune@alpc.ar.gov



How Long Does It Take For A Car to Get Hot?

OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE IN CAR	TIME IT TAKES TO REACH
75	100	10 minutes
75	120	30 minutes
85	90	5 minutes
85	100	7 to 10 minutes
85	120	30 minutes
100	140	15 minutes

Every year, animals left unattended in cars suffer and die from heatstroke.

A Hot Oven Or A Hot Car... IT'S THE SAME THING!



Is a trip to the store really worth your pet's life?

Even with windows partially opened, a parked vehicle will quickly become a furnace. The temperature in a car parked in direct sunlight can rise more than 30 degrees per minute, and quickly become lethal.

Never leave your pet unattended in a car, even with the air conditioner running. A car can stall, may run out of gas or experience a mechanical failure. For peace of mind, leave your pet at home.

At even higher risk of heat stroke are:

- Puppies under 6 months of age
- Older or large breed pets
- Dogs with dark or thick/dense coats
- Dogs with short muzzles such as Bulldogs, Pekingese, Boston terriers, Lhasa Apsos, Pugs, Shih Tzus, etc.
- Overweight pets
- Dogs with preexisting medical conditions such as infections or heart/lung disease

Critical symptoms of heat stroke:

- Rapid panting
- Bright red tongue
- Red or pale gums
- Thick, sticky saliva
- Lethargy
- Weak or sluggish
- Vomiting/diarrhea
- Shock
- Coma

If your pet's body temperature rises to 107°, your pet has entered the critical zone of heat stroke. With heat stroke, irreversible damage and death can occur. An overheating dog may appear sluggish, unresponsive or disorientated and may be panting hard. Gums, tongue and conjunctiva of the eyes might be bright red. He may even start vomiting. Eventually he will collapse, suffer a seizure and may go into a coma.



If you think your pet is displaying any symptoms of heat stroke, immediately contact your veterinarian or emergency vet clinic. Also attempt to reduce its body temperature with cool water, offering ice chips, and covering with cool, wet towels while on route to veterinary treatment.



Please feel free to copy and post this PSA in your clinic. It is also available at http://vbspca.com/uploads/vbspcainfo/68_hotovenhotcar.pdf

Some tips to keep pets cool this summer...

- If dogs are kept outdoors, consider getting a plastic "kiddy" pool and keeping it filled and in a shady area, many dogs like to lie in the water to cool off.
- Put a fan out for them.
- Always provide plenty of fresh water.
- Create shady areas by putting out a large umbrella or stretching a tarp over something to create a roof.
- You can hose your dog off if they will tolerate it, but be careful of the water that comes out of the water hose at first, you can actually cause serious burns with it. Allow it to cool down before hosing your dog.
- For rabbits and other small pets, putting out fans and placing frozen bottles of water in their cages for them to lie next to can help prevent overheating.
- Walk your dog in the early morning or late evening. Keep in mind that the asphalt and concrete is scorching hot, try to let them walk on grass.