



Lab Notes

March 2013

Meet Our Staff

Dr. Jim Britt is the Laboratory Director and has been a veterinary pathologist at ALPC since 1988 and was at the Los Angeles County veterinary lab for 10 years before that, where he earned his MS and his veterinary pathology board certification. His DVM is from the University of Missouri. He began his career in the USAF Veterinary Corps and recently retired from the US Army Veterinary Corps reserves. His professional interests are infectious diseases and tumor biopsies. He has organized the annual South Central Division pathology program for the C.L. Davis Foundation for 22 years and he manages the Davis Foundation veterinary student externship program in pathology and has hosted many students in the lab. In his spare time, he enjoys bicycling, camping, and working with the Boy Scouts and he is the "Dean" of the Council's annual Merit Badge University at the State Capitol.

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

Dr. James O. Britt,
Laboratory Director.

Our Pathology department offers a variety of services that can help you in determining the cause of an animal's illness. We accept biopsies, with results being reported usually within 24-48 hours of sample receipt, unless special stains or procedure are necessary. We perform necropsies for all species of animals, large and small. Call us for pricing and information. Full necropsy results can take up to two weeks or more depending upon the testing required. Toxicology tests are not included in Necropsy fees, but can be added if needed

Easter Lily Toxicosis in Cats



It is believed that all parts of the Easter lily, tiger lily, Japanese showy lily, rubrum lily, stargazer lily, and some species of day lilies are highly toxic to cats. During the spring, these flowers begin appearing in flower arrangements and potted plants in many homes. They are also commonly found in gardens, but incidence of outdoor cats suffering from lily toxicosis is rare, most cases are seen in indoor cats that have eaten some part of the plant. Even a small amount of any of these lilies can be fatal if not diagnosed and treated properly and quickly. The toxin found in the Easter lily plant has

proven to be the most nephrotoxic and pancreatoxic. Clinical signs usually appear within three to twelve hours post ingestion of the plant. Early signs include vomiting, depression and anorexia. Acute renal failure occurs within one to three days. If treatment is delayed past 18 to 24 hours after anuria develops, prognosis is poor. Lab work will show increased levels of blood urea nitrogen, creatinine, potassium, and phosphorus. Epithelial casts have been found in the urine as early as twelve to eighteen hours post ingestion, as well as proteinuria and glucosuria.

From the Equine Disease Quarterly,

In the USA, the number of Eastern equine encephalomyelitis during the third quarter was 35; the national total is 171 cases in 2012. The number of affected states went from 6 to 16 with the greatest increase in disease cases confirmed in Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Alabama. The number of West Nile encephalitis rose dramatically in the third quarter in the USA; a total of 427 cases were reported from 40 states, with maximal increases in Texas, Pennsylvania, California, Indiana and Iowa.

**Micro Minute—Our
Microbiology department
has recently confirmed a
case of Listeriosis
encephalitis in a cow.**

Helpful Hints From the Lab—

When submitting urine for urinalysis and/or culture it is best to place it in a red-top serum tube or a sterile urine transport cup. This will allow us to give you the most accurate results. It is also important to refrigerate the sample if you cannot get it to the lab within a couple of hours.



We are now offering a PCR test for *Mycoplasma* in mammals. It will detect *M. bovis* and *M. canis*. Call the lab for pricing and submission information. We currently have a PCR for Ehrlichia and Anaplasma as well. This can help to determine if the dog has cleared the infection after treatment when they still have a positive serology. These tests can also be used in cattle and horses.



There have been confirmed cases of Rabies in one dog and one cow in the state since Jan. 1st along with 14 wild skunks.

Pope county has the highest number of skunk rabies in the state.

Fast Fact—Canine rabies virus infection is estimated to kill a minimum of 55,000 people in Africa and Asia each year.

There have been several pet food and treat recalls since the start of 2013. Most are being recalled because of suspected Salmonella contamination. These products include Nutri-Pet, Boots and Barkley, and all products manufactured at Kasel Associated Industries' Denver, Colorado facility from April 20, 2012 thru September 19, 2012. For a complete list of recalled pet products, see the AVMA webpage at www.AVMA.org. Click on the Issues in the News link under the News and Publications heading and follow the links to the updated pet food recall page.



Ticks can carry *Ehrlichia canis* and *E. ewingii* (Ehrlichiosis) as well as *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* (Anaplasmosis) and *Rickettsia rickettsii*, also known as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever or RMSF.

We offer a variety of tests for tick-borne diseases. We currently have a PCR for Ehrlichia and Anaplasma. We also offer a serology Tick Profile that covers RMSF and *Ehrlichia canis* as well as other blood parasites. The RMSF and *Ehrlichia canis* serum FA can also be titered. We offer a canine 4 Way Snap test which covers *E. canis*, *E. ewingii*, heartworm, *Borrelia* (Lyme' disease) and Anaplasma.

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



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