



Lab Notes

May 2013

Meet Our Staff

Dr. Will P. Sims is a board-eligible anatomic veterinary pathologist, who completed his residency in pathology and masters in biomedical science at Texas A&M in 2011. Dr. Sims grew up on a farm and ranch in southwest Kansas before moving to Oklahoma to attend Oklahoma State University where he major in biochemistry and finished his DVM in 2007. After veterinary school, he was a mixed animal practitioner in Cortez, CO before pursuing veterinary pathology as a career. His professional interests include infectious disease, dermatopathology, and teaching pathology to other veterinarians and students. Recently, he attended the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician course on Plum Island, where he was able to observe such diseases as Foot and Mouth Disease and African Horse Sickness. He is glad to only ever see these diseases at Plum Island and hopes never see an outbreak in the United States. Outside the lab, he is an avid musician and loves to play the piano and sing in the St. James United Methodist Church sanctuary choir. He also is interested in hiking, fishing, cooking and traveling.

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

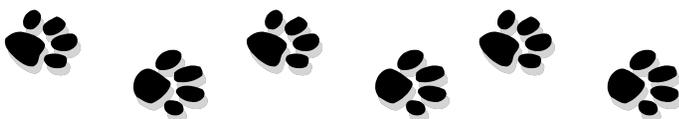
Dr. James O. Britt, Laboratory
Director.



Cytauxzoonosis in Cats -

We have had several cases of this in a cats so far this season. This is a tick-borne protozoa. It has a RBC piroplasm stage that may be very transitory because we often do not see it in the blood smear and the cat will die a few days later. They typically are icteric and have a fever of 105°F or higher, and may be anemic. The megaloschizonts are usually very numerous and can be identified in histopathologic sections of formalin-fixed tissue. They are in circulating monocytes but they do not appear in blood smears. They tend to be most numerous in the lungs and spleen. The may be in the meningeal vessels as well and cause neurologic signs. There is not an effective treatment. Prevention is keeping ticks off of the cat. It only takes one tick. In Arkansas, our cases typically come from the Arkansas River Valley from Russellville and up through the Ozarks into Missouri and eastern Oklahoma. The first case report in the 1970's of more than 30 cats dying in a household was from Missouri because the farmhouse was there, but the barn with the cats was actually across the state line in Arkansas.

Our Laboratory is a member of the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine Laboratory Response Network. As a member lab, we communicate between veterinary diagnostic labs and with the FDA on food contamination questions and adverse drug reactions. We can do testing as requested by FDA and help with testing that might be more than any one lab could do in an emergency. As part of the lab system, we also do assays that are requested by FDA on complaints. The complaint needs to go through their reporting website, <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ReportaProblem/ucm182403.htm>. Only the veterinary clinic, or the owner, with the product packaging in front of them will be able to enter the information as well as any clinical symptoms. If the complaint is accepted as worth further investigation, the FDA, can decide that they may be willing to pay for further testing, but their initial approval is necessary. The process can be expedited by calling Dr. Britt at the lab and informing him that you have registered a complaint and he can forward the notice to FDA. As a Vet LRN member lab, we have also done Salmonella and liver copper proficiency testing which helps us maintain accreditation. Our routine testing, especially a post-mortem exam, will often identify a routine or spontaneous cause of illness and death.



Salmonella Group B in Wild Birds

Increased mortality was reported in small wild birds at a backyard feeding station in the Hot Springs area. We received one bird that we thought to be a female house finch. The bird was thin so it had been sick before dying. No gross lesions were evident. Microscopically, there were scattered small necrotic inflammatory foci throughout the liver that were consistent with "paratyphoid nodules." Although no specific lesions were found in this bird, we did isolate Salmonella group B. The recommendation was to take down the feeding station so that the birds disperse and don't infect each other so much, or try to disinfect the station and water bath regularly.



Fast Fact—In place of a functional sweet taste receptor gene, it has been discovered that cats have a pseudogene, or a broken gene, that makes them unable to detect sweet tastes.

June is the American
Humane Association's
Adopt a Cat Month



Helpful Hints From the Lab— To help us better serve you, please make sure that the submission form submitted with your samples is correctly and as completely filled out as possible. The clinic name and/or the vet's name needs to be clearly written in the appropriate area. Without this information, we do not know who to send the results to. The animal's species, name, and age also helps us to identify the case when you call us with questions and when you receive your results. Clearly mark the tests you would like and the sample submitted. It is also extremely helpful to our technicians and pathologists to provide any history you might have on the case. Thank you.

Pet Loss

Today in the United States, more and more people consider their pets to be an important part of the family. So when a pet dies, it can devastate individual family members or rock an entire family group to its core. It is important to grieve this loss and work through the emotions.

Both children and adults display a variety of reactions to the loss of a pet, going through stages of grief, such as shock, denial, bargaining, anger, guilt, sorrow and acceptance. Children grieve differently depending on their stage of development.

According to Kay Gilchrist, co-chair of the Human-Animal Bond Trust in Denver, Colo., "Realizing that grieving is a part of the healing process and that this process is a highly individualized one is vital." While the feeling of loss may never completely resolve for some, time can be a great healer and may help lessen the sense of loss. It is important to push through the denial; to leave time for grieving; and to ask for, and accept, support from understanding friends and family. Some local humane organizations and national organizations offer pet loss support groups or hotlines.

Hotlines and Online Support

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty for Animals: 1 (877) GRIEF-10 or 1 (877) 474-3310

The Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement: <http://aplb.org/index.php>

Colorado State University Hotline: (970) 297-1242

Cornell University Pet Loss Hotline: (607) 253-3932

Denver Dumb Friends League: (303) 751-5772

Iams Pet Loss Support Research Center: 1(888) 332-7738

PetLossHelp.Org: (201) 567-5596

Tufts University Pet Loss Support Hotline: (508) 839-7966

University of Illinois, The Companion Animal Related Emotions Pet Loss Helpline: 1 (877) 394-CARE

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