

Lab Notes

September 2013

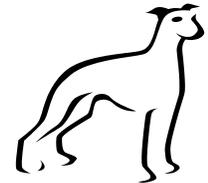


Meet Our Staff

Amy K. Harrod, EMT joined our staff in 2008. She graduated from UAM with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. After graduation she obtained a position with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Division of Agriculture in research with cattle, wheat and feed grains. After years in research she became an EMT and obtained a position with MEMS in Little Rock. In addition to working for MEMS, Amy also worked in a local veterinarian clinic. Her experience in the medical emergency field played an important role in working with animals. When the opportunity arose, Amy took a position in our Clinical Pathology department where she remains a valuable employee. One of Amy's principle roles in Clin Path is instrument maintenance and troubleshooting.

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK
AND POULTRY
COMMISSION
VETERINARY
DIAGNOSTIC LAB

Dr. James O. Britt,
Laboratory Director.



Helpful Hints from the Lab—

Please inform the lab of any changes in your clinic's veterinary staff. If a new vet comes in or one leaves, or if a clinic is closing or moving please notify Candace in billing so that she may make the necessary changes to your account. Call 501-907-2400 ask for Candace.

The Serology laboratory would like to remind all clinics that it is especially important ,in the hot summertime, to take care of your serum submissions. We have been receiving quite a few samples that are too hemolysed for testing. We recommend pouring the serum off the clot and sending samples in an insulated container with an ice pack. Thanks!

Pseudorabies testing report change

Negative pseudorabies test results on swine that are submitted by an accredited veterinarian will now be sent directly from our laboratory to the veterinarian's office. The Federal copy will still be sent to the Federal AVIC office for monitoring and filing. So, watch for those results from the lab in the future.

Delayed Biopsy Results

A few of the tissues that we receive for histopathology are too fatty or edematous (loose or watery) and require further processing. This might take several days. Additionally, boney tumors may take many days to decalcify enough for processing. We usually process the softer tissue around the edges if there is enough on hard samples. By the way, with mammary tumors, the harder the tissue, the more likely that the mass is benign since benign mixed mammary tumors often form cartilage and bone. If you are on WebSuite, you can make sure that we received your sample. If a report seems excessively delayed, you may call the office to see if your submission falls in these categories, or if perhaps we are doing extra stains or processing additional tissue.

Anaplasmosis in Cattle

Normally, in the lab we see acute deaths in the late summer and fall. These cattle that die suddenly are usually the older ones in the herd. We recommend sending a whole blood sample (lavender/EDTA tube) for looking for the organisms in the blood (order a "blood parasite" exam). Sometime they are few and a newly developed PCR test can detect them in the same whole blood sample. We can use spleen tissue for the PCR as well from a necropsy case. The anaplasmosis serology test would not be expected to be positive until 10-14 days after infection since it is detecting the delayed IgG antibodies. The cattle that die acutely have not yet seroconverted ("false negative" result). The serology is better used as a marker for persistent infection and is sometimes required for interstate or international shipping requirements.

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

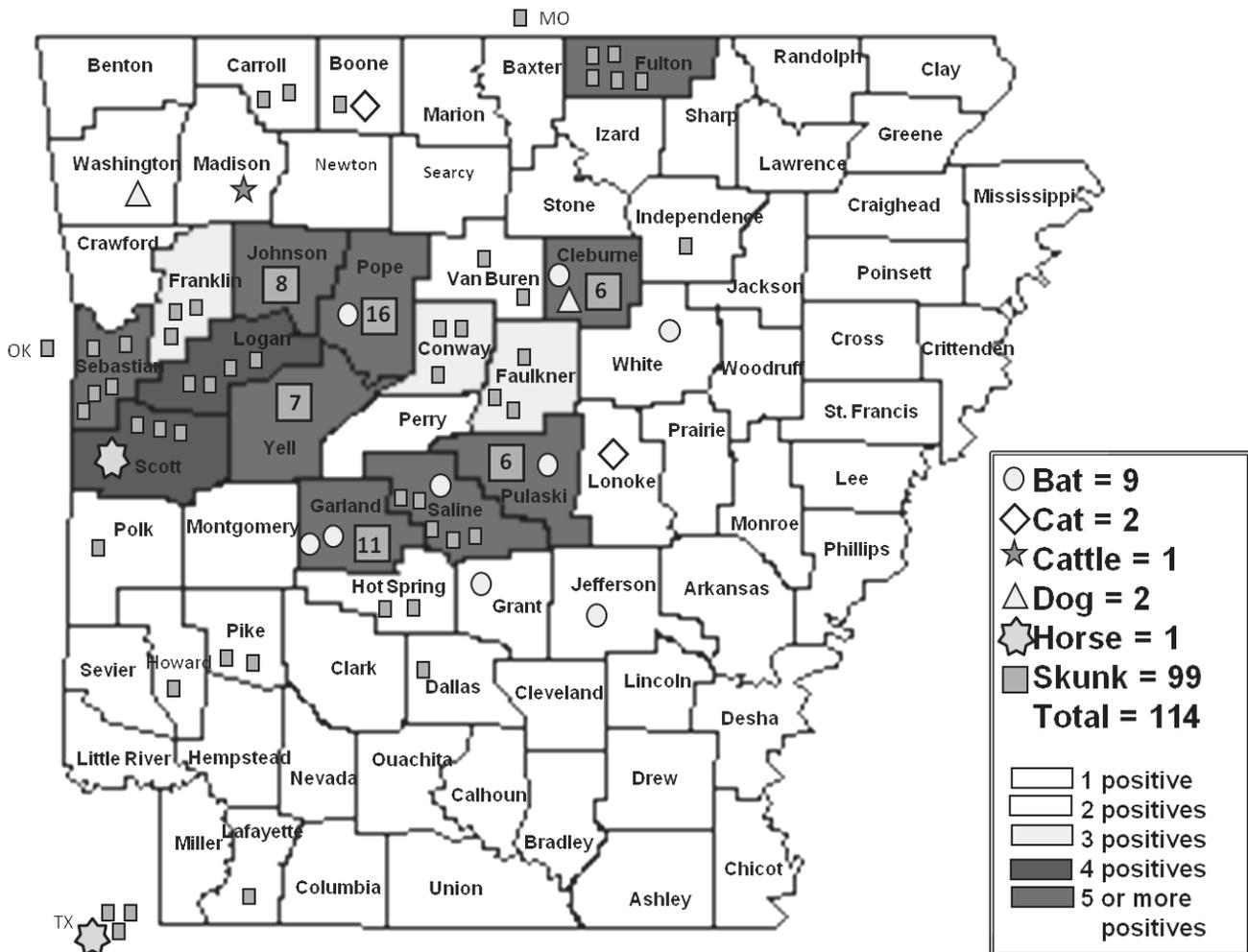


Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

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Animal Rabies in Arkansas 2013

as of 8/28/13



Dog Swimming Safety Tips

They didn't coin the term "doggy paddle" because canines stay on shore. Many dogs enjoy swimming as much as people do, and cool times in the local swimming spot are irreplaceable summer experiences. But you have to look out for your pet around water, since even the strongest, most enthusiastic swimmers can get into trouble. The keys to water safety for dogs are prevention, preparedness and awareness.

Prevention

No dog should be given unsupervised access to a backyard pool, neighborhood pond or creek. Swimming pools are best fenced off for safety. If that's not possible, they should be equipped with alarms that sound when the surface of the water is broken by a child or pet falling in and a ramp to help them find their way out.

Prevention also means teaching your pet what to do when he's in the pool. Dogs don't always understand that the steps are on a certain side, and they may tire while trying to crawl their way out. If your pet likes to swim, work with him in the pool to help him learn where the steps are so he can get out easily. Some breeds of dogs, such as bulldogs, pugs and basset hounds, do not have the body conformation to make them natural swimmers, and may need to be taught how to swim.

Obedience training is extremely important. Your dog should come when called, even when swimming. Emergency shortcut: Always carry extra retrieving toys. A dog who's heading into a dangerous area after a ball or stick can often be lured back to shore with a second item. It's no substitute for training, but it could save your dog's life.

Preparedness

Before letting your dog swim in natural surroundings, survey the area for safety. Rivers and oceans can change frequently, and an area that was once safe for swimming can become treacherous. Consider currents, tides, underwater hazards and even the condition of the water. In the late summer, algae scum on the top of standing water can be toxic, producing substances that can kill a pet who swallows the water. When in doubt, treat it like you would a child: better safe than sorry.

One of the best things you can do is to take courses in pet first aid and CPR. Many local Red Cross chapters offer these classes, and some veterinarians in your community may teach them. A near-death dog rescued from the water may be saved by your prompt actions — if you know what to do.

If your dog isn't much of a swimmer or is older or debilitated, get him a personal floatation device. These are especially great for family boating trips, because most have sturdy handles for rescue when a pet goes overboard.

Awareness

Be aware of your dog's condition as he plays. Remember that even swimming dogs can get hot, so bring fresh water and offer it at every opportunity. When your dog is tiring, call it a day. A tired dog is a good dog, but an exhausted dog is in danger of drowning.