

LAB NEWS



Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Newsletter

January 2015

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Pathologists:

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Serology

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Toxicology

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Microbiology

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Clinical Pathology

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Histopathology

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Brandon Doss, DVM

Quality Manager

Kay L. Shuttleworth,
MS, PhD

Receiving

Scarlett Rice, BS

Letter from the Director

Greetings from the Lab Director's Office! The last 14 months at the ALPC-VDL have been a busy time of change and transition. In October of 2013, the former director, Dr. Jim Britt retired. At that time, I took over as Interim Director, and as of last April, I officially accepted the Lab Director position. I have been a staff pathologist at ALPC since February 2011. I came to Arkansas from the National Zoo in Washington DC where I did my anatomic pathology residency. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to study with the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology during my residency. Prior to my residency, I was a small animal practitioner in Houston, Texas for 12 years. As both a practitioner and a pathologist, I have seen disease from both sides, and feel I have a unique understanding of the disease process and the challenges that practitioners face.

During the past year, the lab faced many challenges and went through tremendous change and reorganization. I am pleased to work with such a knowledgeable, dedicated and caring staff; and despite some turnover that occurred at the height of our transition, I am happy to report that the majority of our staff remains and that we have added several excellent new employees. As we look to the future, my goal is to continue to support the ALPC staff and to provide them with the tools and resources to not only maintain our foundation of quality and excellence, but to strengthen and build upon it so that we may continue to improve our service to you. In the first half of 2015, we plan to revise and improve our quality control system in order to ensure that our clients receive reliable results delivered with the highest possible standards of accuracy. Another goal for this year is the re-implementation of the newsletter which is achieved with this edition. The newsletter will be issued quarterly, and we will continue to update you on our progress and upcoming goals for continued improvement.

I welcome any comments or suggestions that you may have about the ALPC-VDL, so please feel free to email me at lfmdvm@alpc.ar.gov or call me at the main lab number if there is anything concerning the lab that you would like to discuss. Our mission remains "to serve the citizens of Arkansas by providing high quality diagnostic results - in a timely, efficient, and professional manner."

Meet Our Staff

Our microbiology department is now fully staffed with three new wonderful employees. The new bacteriology supervisor is Amanda Smart and the two new technicians are Debra Thrasher and Sarah Cantwell.

Amanda Smart studied Poultry Science at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR. She was originally employed by ALPC from 2009-2011 as a laboratory technician assisting with Bacteriology, Virology and Necropsy. She then departed ALPC to start a Food Safety Microbiology laboratory for a private food company in Little Rock. During this time, she built a fully functioning laboratory that gained acceptance from some of the world's leading food manufacturers and suppliers.

Amanda was raised as a 3rd generation Arkansas 4-H'er showing livestock, mostly market lambs, for almost 20 years as a family affair. Outside of work, Amanda enjoys spending time with her husband, Richard and 18-month-old son, Bryant. Amanda and her husband Richard currently raise show rabbits and travel all over the country participating in ARBA (American Rabbit Breeders Association) sanctioned shows. Amanda and Richard had the privilege of winning a Best of Breed award at the 2013 ARBA Convention (Westminster of Rabbit Shows) in Harrisburg, PA.

To this day, Amanda still lives by the 4-H motto that was instilled in her so many years ago, "To Make the Best Better."

Stay tuned for more about Debra and Sarah!

IT Update

Did you know that you can check online for results through our WebSuite program? WebSuite will allow you to view and print completed test results and invoices online from the convenience of your home or office. You will also be able to confirm that we have received your samples. You will be able to view your test results as soon as they have been completed and verified by our lab personnel. Only personnel at your clinic who enter the correct password will be able to access your test results.

If you would like to **sign up for WebSuite, please visit us online at alpc.arkansas.gov**, click on the Lab tab, and scroll down until you see the WebSuite section. There, you will find a WebSuite user's guide in addition to a link to be able to access your online test results. Having trouble? Give us a call!

How to get the best result from your surgical biopsy sample.

- PLEASE fill out the signalment and clinical history as completely as possible, including if the entire mass was removed. Pathologists typically read biopsies blind in order to not bias themselves, but the above information is imperative for the diagnosis.
- If you are interested in margins, please paint the margins, choosing a different color for deep and lateral margins, and submit the entire mass. This allows us to see the paint histologically to confirm margins are complete.
- If the mass is relatively large (greater than 2 cm in diameter), then please bread-loaf the mass (but leave it intact for our orientation) prior to submersion into formalin. This will allow the formalin to penetrate and completely fix the tissue.

We appreciate your business!

If you have any **questions/concerns**, please don't hesitate to call (501) 907-2430. We are more than happy to speak with you.

Is there a **test or service** you would like for us to offer? A better way we can provide you with **results**? Please let us know!

Prefer e-mail? Let us know! Also, the newsletter, our most updated Submission Forms and Fee Book are online at alpc.arkansas.gov.

Nights, Weekends, and Holidays

Don't forget to call our emergency phone number (501-773-2456) to speak with a veterinarian regarding after hours necropsy submissions

Do you have something to contribute?

If you have an interesting disease topic or case you would like to write about in order to inform your Arkansan colleagues, please contact Dr. Virginia Charney at vcharney@alpc.ar.gov for more information.

Please visit our website at alpc.arkansas.gov or call at 501-907-2430 for any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Departmental Updates and Helpful Hints:

Receiving:

Please make sure your samples (tubes, jars, swabs, etc...) are labelled correctly and clearly (owner and pet ID's, date, and clinic/Dr.) to eliminate possibilities for errors. Additionally, please fill out the submission sheet as completely as possible to help the specific department provide the most complete and accurate results possible.

Clinical Pathology:

Fluid Analysis Reminder: Please include a plain Red Top Tube (**RED**) and an EDTA Tube (**PURPLE**) when submitting samples for Fluid Analysis. An EDTA tube is necessary to obtain cell counts and the best choice to preserve cells for microscopic examination. A plain Red Top Tube is used to obtain chemistry results for certain types of fluids. Sending both types of tubes helps our pathologists to provide a complete analysis.

Histopathology:

What does it mean if your sample is in Alcoholic Formalin Solution? If the sample is extremely soft or is primarily fatty, it needs to have a stronger matrix to firm the tissue prior to making a slide. We use Alcoholic Formalin for these samples. They are checked daily for firmness before they go to the next step in processing. Each sample varies on the amount of time for completion. The Alcoholic Formalin soaking process may add between 2-7 days to the normal processing time.

What does it mean if your tissue is in Rapid Decal Solution? The Rapid Decal soaking process time varies depending on the degree of mineralization within the sample and the hardness of the bone. The sample is checked daily until soft enough to process and make a slide.

Pathology:

Have an abortion case? Don't forget to send us the placenta and also paired serum samples (3 weeks apart) from the dam. This will allow us to provide the most thorough assessment of the case and rule in/out the most common diseases. With all bovine abortion cases a **Federal Brucellosis Chart** is required in addition to the standard submission form.

Serology:

Even though the 2014 Fair season is now a memory, it is never too early to remind our clients who own show pigs of the mandatory testing required for their pigs to attend these fairs during the upcoming year. All pigs must be tested for pseudorabies and brucellosis to attend these activities. All tests are good for a generous 120 days, allowing pigs tested once during the fair season to attend fairs for the duration of the season. All Porcine serum samples must be accompanied with a **Porcine Serology Chart** or a **Federal Brucellosis Chart**. These forms may be ordered from ALPC by calling 501-907-2424. The Serology Lab batch tests these samples on Mondays only. Please advise your clients not to wait until the last minute to test their pigs.

Bacteriology:

An aerobic culture can take up to 3-4 days to be finalized and a fungal culture can take up to 1 month. Also, it is helpful to provide a clinical history in order to better serve you.

Virology:

The Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) PCR is now available at \$30.00. Appropriate samples include feces, intestine, swabs, or feed.