

Vetpath is a specialist veterinary laboratory dedicated to providing our clients with the finest laboratory diagnostic service. A team of veterinary pathologists and medical scientists with extensive experience in veterinary diagnostic pathology forms the core of the Vetpath team.

VN News

DECEMBER 2019

The Intestinal Microbiome in Diarrhoeic Dogs and Cats in Perth

A recent short communication, published in the Australian veterinary Journal and co-authored by a Vetpath pathologist, described the prevalence of intestinal microorganisms in diarrhoeic dogs and cats in Perth, Western Australia.

The retrospective study involved analysis of faecal samples from domestic pets and shelter animals by multiplex RT-PCR methods, the test offered at Vetpath. This test has been widely adopted by many local veterinarians since its introduction in July 2104 as part of a cohort of other tests used to

investigate potential causes for diarrhoea in domestic species.

Faeces from cats and dogs submitted between July 2014 to August 2015 were analysed, including 289 feline faecal samples from domestic and shelter animals and 405 canine faecal samples, seven of which were from shelter animals and 2 from racing greyhounds. The remainder of the submitted canine samples were from domestic pets.

In both species *Campylobacter* spp. and *Clostridium perfringens* were most commonly detected, with *C. perfringens* having a prevalence of >80% and often showing co-presence with other organisms. In cats, feline coronavirus was detected in 39.5% of samples analysed. *Cryptosporidium parvum* was not detected in any feline and canine samples and no breed predisposition was detected for any infectious agent. Further results can be obtained from the publication (copies of the publication can be obtained from Vetpath Reception).

Diarrhoea can be of small and/or large intestinal origin and be due to many conditions including dietary indiscretion, hypersensitivity/ inflammatory disorders, neoplasia, infection by bacterial, fungal, protozoal, and viral organisms, and helminthiasis, to name a few. Attempting to diagnose the cause for diarrhoea can therefore be challenging, even more so if infectious microorganisms are suspected to be the cause as many enteric pathogens can be part of the resident gastrointestinal microbiome in normal individuals. It is for this reason that any positive result obtained by PCR testing should be interpreted in conjunction with clinical signs and other test methods such as full faecal analysis and culture. Detection, in isolation, does not always confirm causation.

Reference: *Aust Vet J.* 2019 Oct;97(10):418-421.

Christmas 2019 and New Year 2020 hours

Vetpath Laboratory Ascot

Monday 23rd December 2019	8:00am – 7:00pm	Normal weekday couriers
Tuesday 24 th December 2019	8.00am -7.00pm	Normal weekday couriers
Wednesday 25th December 2019 Christmas Day	10.00am -12.00pm*	No couriers No on-call service from 12noon until 10am 26/12/19
Thursday 26th December 2019	10.00am – 1.00pm*	No couriers
Friday 27 th December 2019	8:00am – 7:00pm	Normal weekday couriers
Saturday 28 th December 2019	8.30am – 5.00pm	Normal Saturday couriers
Sunday 29 th December 2019	10.00am -1.00pm*	No couriers
Monday 30 th December 2019	8:00am – 7:00pm	Normal weekday couriers
Tuesday 31 st December 2019	8.00am – 7.00pm	Normal weekday couriers
Wednesday 1st January 2020 New Year's Day	10.00am – 1.00pm*	No couriers
Thursday 2 nd January 2020	8.00am – 7.00pm	Normal weekday couriers

* Usual Sunday and Public Holiday surcharges apply.

For items requiring attention on the next working day it is possible to fax 08 9259 3627

or email vetpath.reception@vetpath.com.au

BATCHED TESTS WILL BE RUN AS FOLLOWS

IFA for Feline Calici/Herpes/ Panleukopenia, Canine Parvo/Distemper	Tuesday 24/12/19, Friday 27/12/19, Tuesday 31/12/19 and Thursday 2/1/20
IFA for ANA, Coronavirus, FeLV, Toxoplasma and Neospora IFA	Tuesday 24/12/19, Friday 27/12/19, Tuesday 31/12/19 and Friday 3/1/20
Oestrone Sulphate and PMSG	Tuesday 24/12/19 and Tuesday 31/12/19
IFA for <i>Babesia gibsoni</i> , <i>Leishmania</i> , and <i>Ehrlichia canis</i>	Monday 23/12/19, Friday 27/12/19, Monday 30/12/19 and Thursday 2/1/20



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Season's Greetings and best wishes for the New Year
 from all at Vetpath