

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

OCTOBER 2020

New laboratory progress

Vetpath is moving to a brand new, purpose built laboratory in Jandakot in April 2021.

The veterinary laboratory will be co-locating with Western Diagnostic Pathology. Co-location with a medical laboratory will allow Vetpath to streamline some of our processes, leading to improved service and turnaround times.

Work is well underway and the building is expected to be complete in November. In addition to moving most of the laboratory equipment to Jandakot, Vetpath will be undertaking validation of a new biochemistry analyzer before we move. A team of Vetpath staff are assessing every process in the laboratory to ensure all sections are moved with

minimum disruption to service. We will continue to keep you updated with our progress.

From this...



... to this!



Feline Nutrition Webinar

The next webinar in the SVS network webinar series will be held on Wednesday the 28th of October at 6pm AWST and is available to all Vetpath clients.

The webinar is entitled **Feline Nutrition, A Clinicians Perspective** and will be presented by Dr Sue Foster BVSc, MVetClinStud, FANZCVS (Feline Medicine).

You can register for the webinar at [Vet-webinar.com](http://vet-webinar.com) and use the voucher code Nutrition (expires 28/11/20).

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.asaplab.com.au/CPD/ContinuingProfessionalDevelopment/Webinars2020.aspx>

Blood smear preparation

Evaluation of cell morphology on a blood smear is an important component of a CBC.

Storage of blood in an EDTA tube can significantly affect erythrocyte and leukocyte morphology. Erythrocyte morphology can be altered after only a few hours, which is particularly problematic when evaluating anaemic patients.

Good blood smear technique is essential and a poorly prepared smear may be diagnostically useless. The smear should have a feathered edge (F) and a sufficient monolayer (M) for cell evaluation (see figure). Don't forget to label the blood tubes and the smears with the patient's name and the date!

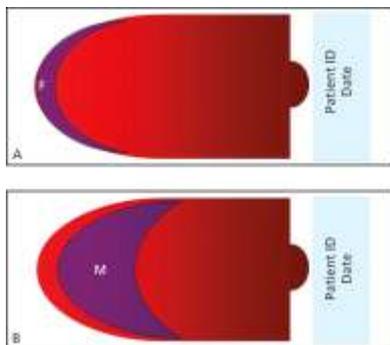


Figure: Blood smears displaying the feathered edge and monolayer.

Source: *In Practice* 2011;33: 402-409.

You can find a helpful video on the Vetpath Facebook page. Our Medical Scientist Y-vi demonstrates her blood smear technique. Some of Y-vi's tips include:

1. Clean the slide with a tissue first.
2. Don't use too much blood.
3. Use a smooth, fluid action.

Practice makes perfect!

<https://www.facebook.com/ascotwa/videos/276771547054452/>



Happy Vet Nurse's Day!

Veterinary nurses are an essential part of veterinary practice and are often the link between veterinarians and the laboratory.

Friday the 9th of October is Vet Nurse Day and the staff at Vetpath would like to say a big thank you to the nurses who we speak with the over the phone and sometimes get to see in person. You help the staff at Vetpath serve the veterinary industry and we wish you a wonderful day on the 9th!

Expired blood tubes

Are expired blood tubes ok to use?

Manufacturers of blood tubes do not recommend using expired tubes. Both the vacuum and effectiveness of the additives may be compromised. Even if the tube is not being used as a vacutainer, the integrity of the seal may be lost allowing bacterial or fungal contamination of the tube. The anti-coagulant component of the tube may no longer be effective, rendering EDTA and citrate samples unusable.

In an emergency, a tube that is a couple of months out of date is unlikely to significantly compromise your results. Tubes that are expired by more than a few months should not be used. We recently received some tubes that were 10 – 13 years out of date! We recommend that you monitor your stock of lab supplies to ensure that you always have non-expired tubes available.



VETERINARY PATHOLOGISTS

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