

# NATIONWIDE LABORATORIES AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

ALWAYS ADVANCING

## EQUINE HEALTH

**Ask the laboratory expert: biochemistry results in equine practice** by Stacey Newton

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**Ask your laboratory expert: haematology results in equine practice** by Stacey Newton

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**Diagnosing equine metabolic syndrome** by Stacey Newton

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**Diagnosing equine pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction** by Stacey Newton

[CLICK HERE →](#)

**FREE WEBINAR: Haematology and biochemistry results in equines: interpretation and significance** by Stacey Newton

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## Message from David Charvill

Dear friends,

This autumn we continue talking about our investment programme focusing on technology to keep our service modern and relevant to you in the veterinary field. We have added a new high-end, extra fast and super-efficient slide digitalization system into our workflow, which for you will mean improved turnaround times and better results first time. We will also be able to receive images from practices and offer you a slide scanning service.

Our online courier booking solution fits well into the busy life of your practice and the new online customer portal will enable you to book and track your samples as well download reports.

We continue running Customer Voice feedback programme, so that you could let us know how we are doing and where we could improve. We are here to support you, so please get in touch and our team will help.

David Charvill,  
Director of Laboratory Services

# IN FOCUS: London Vet Show 2022 - visit our stand P20



We are excited to announce that this year we will be **demonstrating** a 3DHISTECH PANNORAMIC® 1000 RX slide digitalization system (provided by EpreDia) on our **stand P20** at The London Vet Show.

As part of the demonstration we are inviting you to **CHALLENGE the scanner** by bringing in your own slides to the show for us to scan them on the spot for you. **Any interesting cases you want to keep? Any presentation or article you are preparing that requires great images?** You are more than welcome!

## WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- Bring 1 - 3 single width slides of varying quality
- Slides do not have to be cover slipped (but a cover slipped slide gives a sharper image), we just ask that no oil is present on the slide

## WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Slides will be scanned instantly at our stand
- The image will be given to you via a USB stick
- Software to open the images will be sent directly to your email address

As part of our display we will also be introducing the NEW **online customer portal**. Please join us for a virtual tour of the system which will soon be part of your package. We will also be talking about the NEW **online courier booking system**.

And whilst you are with us, have a look at our NEW **online learning hub** in partnership with The Webinar Vet and take part in a **PRIZE draw** with a chance to win up to 5 hours of CPD. You will only need to fill in a short survey and we will be in touch via email to let you know if you've won.

We are looking forward to seeing you at **The London Vet Show**.

## WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR LAB?



## ALLERGY TESTING

**allervet®** offers a comprehensive package to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of allergic disease in dogs, cats and horses. The **allervet®** test is a serological assay for allergen-specific IgE designed exclusively for veterinary use. The IgE detection system utilises advanced oligoclonal technology.

- Economic screening test for environmental allergens including fleas and *Malassezia*
- Intelligent panels tailored for significant UK allergens
- Antipruritic therapy may not require withdrawal prior to testing
- High sensitivity and specificity compared to intradermal skin testing
- Results are highly reproducible

**allervet®** is offered to you exclusively in the UK by NationWide Laboratories, leaders in veterinary clinical pathology. **For more details, visit [www.allervet.com](http://www.allervet.com) or telephone 01253 899215.**

## SDMA ASSAY

This assay has been validated against Liquid Chromatography – Mass Spectrometry method which is the Gold standard. This is an immunoturbidimetric assay and has been validated for dogs, cats and horses. Li-hep plasma or serum are suitable samples for this assay. **THE RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE SAME DAY.**

# Brucella canis: important reminder



According to the Vet Times, a spokesperson for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed that *Brucella canis* had been detected in a rescue dog imported to the UK from Belarus in March this year. The keeper was diagnosed with having contracted *Brucella canis*, while her dogs that she had contracted it from were euthanised. Vets have renewed calls for compulsory testing for *Brucella canis*.

*Brucella canis* infection in dogs is predominantly associated with reproductive failure, but other clinical signs include discospondylitis and uveitis. Infection can also be subclinical. Diagnostic tests available in the UK are *Brucella canis* serum antibodies and PCR for detection of *Brucella canis* on EDTA blood, urine, semen, aborted material or swabs of presumed infected tissue.

Zoonotic infection with *Brucella canis* is infrequently reported in humans but may be under-diagnosed, due to often vague clinical signs and lack of testing. Infected dogs pose a significant risk to owners, veterinary staff and laboratory staff processing pathology samples, particularly in individuals with certain underlying health conditions.

In order to identify cases and **minimise the risk** of infection and transmission to other dogs or humans the following measures are recommended:

- **Highlight risk to clients** importing dogs from Eastern Europe (particularly Romania) or those travelling with their pets to this region. Encourage potential owners to request pre-export testing and consider pre-breeding testing.
- **Highlight risk to the veterinary team** and routinely ascertain the origin and travelling history of dogs (and their parents) when they are registered and seen.
- Ensure **appropriate testing** is performed and PPE is used in suspected clinical cases.
- **Notify diagnostic laboratories clearly on submission forms** of the import/travelling history when submitting samples from these patients to enable us to take appropriate precautions, regardless of whether they have clinical signs of *Brucellosis*. Ensure sample packaging is appropriately **biosecure**. This also helps protect us against other potential pathogens in addition to *Brucella canis*.



## SAME DAY PTH

NationWide Specialist Laboratories is offering a SAME DAY service for the analysis of canine, feline and equine parathyroid hormone (PTH). Parathyroid hormone-related protein (or PTHrP) is assayed once a week on Wednesday with results available on Thursday. If you want our RAPID PTH service as well as PTHrP, please submit 2 separate frozen EDTA Plasma samples. PTHrP will continue to be analysed once a week. **For more details, please contact us at 01223 493400.**

## GERIATRIC PET PROFILES

Comprehensive testing is recommended for senior dogs and cats, due to the higher risk of underlying disease. There are four main categories of wellness testing for senior pets: **complete blood count, biochemistry profile, urinalysis, and thyroid hormone testing**. Our canine and feline geriatric profiles include a chemistry panel to **evaluate kidney and liver function, antibody and protein levels, blood sugar, cholesterol, electrolytes and more**. **For more information, contact us at [info@nwlabs.co.uk](mailto:info@nwlabs.co.uk).**

## EQA SCHEME

We operate an independent National EQA scheme for all practices and for a wide range of analytical equipment brands. This ensures that equipment and reagent problems that uniformly affect a single brand will be identified. Reports will be generated from the data submitted and provided to individual participants or group practice headquarters. Options:

- Biochemistry EQA and "paired sample" comparison testing for Haematology analysers.
- Biochemistry EQA only.
- "Paired sample" comparison testing for Haematology analysers only.

**For more information, contact us at [info@nwlabs.co.uk](mailto:info@nwlabs.co.uk).**

# NationWide Laboratories team answers FAQs from our clients

## Q: How do I fill the submission form correctly and why is it important?

**A:** We are here to work with your samples and deliver the results to you within the designated time frames. There is something you could do to help us go above and beyond.

When filling in a submission form PLEASE spend an extra moment to check if you have:

- Entered the practice code
- Entered the test code
- Remembered to add the species
- Included a history

With this little bit of help, we will work even more efficiently.

## Q: What do I need to include in the clinical history sent with my cytology and histology samples?

**A:** A pathologist is here to try and help you reach a diagnosis, so that you can progress to possible further tests, treatment and ultimately resolve the problem. In order to get the best and most relevant pathology interpretation from your sample, please always send us the following:

- Age
- Species
- Breed
- Sex
- Site of sample or lesion
- Brief description of the lesion

We then come to the clinical history. This needs to be **relevant**. A **short** paragraph as notes is ideal. A list of your clinical differential diagnoses is extremely useful, as the pathologist can then speak to those differentials. You may also like to include short relevant notes on some of the following:

- Clinical signs and duration
- Any previous therapy administered
- Any previous lesions, other relevant pathology that has previously been identified
- Description of lesion with size
- Any unusual findings encountered during sampling

## Q: Can I put cytology slides in the same bag as tissue fixed in formalin?

**A:** No, cytology slides should never be packaged in the same bag as tissue fixed in formalin. The slides should be put in slide mailers in a separate bag to avoid contamination from formalin fumes as the fumes from the formalin cause cellular changes which can affect the reading of the cytology. Please note: all slides should be properly labelled and have the animal's and owner's name.

## Q: Do I need to mark sample tube tips?

**A:** Yes, please remember to mark sample tubes with the animal name and if it is fluid (not blood) to mark the tube clearly (e.g. Abdo fluid or pericardial fluid) and for ProBNP mark the tube clearly as EDTA Plasma.

## HOW CLEAN IS YOUR PRACTICE?

We offer you a microbiological screening programme to screen your facilities and equipment. Swabs are supplied with simple instructions and a postage paid envelope for return to our laboratory for testing. We test for aerobic and anaerobic cultures as well as specific cultures for yeast and fungi. This comprehensive testing includes (but is not limited to) cultures for the following major groups of organisms: *Enterobacteriaceae*, *Enterococci*/*Streptococci*, *Pseudomonadaceae*, *Staphylococci* (Meticillin resistant/sensitive) as well as spore forming bacteria such as *Bacillus* and *Clostridium spp.*

## HYDROTHERAPY POOL WATER TESTING

We all know that hydrotherapy in conjunction with veterinary treatment can assist in improving the rate of recovery and healing of animals after injury or surgery. At NationWide Laboratories we can assist you in demonstrating to your clients that your facility meets the guidelines for water safety and quality through our hydro pool testing service, which meets the requirements of hydrotherapy associations such as CHA and NARCH.

We will provide you with the sample bottle, guidance on how to take the sample and prepaid postage to get the sample to us. You will receive a report of printed enumerated results for total viable count at 37 degrees itemising *total coliforms*, *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and guidance for interpretation.

Simply call 01253 899215 or email [info@nwlabs.co.uk](mailto:info@nwlabs.co.uk) for more information.



# BSVP Autumn meeting 2022

The British Society of Veterinary Pathology (BSVP) hosted their Autumn Meeting on the 15th and 16th October at the Harvest Fields Centre in Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham. The BSVP was founded in 2006 and organises educational events for veterinary pathologists, pathology residents and any vets interested in pathology, as well as promoting communication between pathologists in the UK and abroad. NationWide Laboratories was proud to sponsor this year's Autumn Meeting and to support the BSVP in their work.

The theme of this year's meeting was Bone Pathology, a fascinating yet challenging subject for many diagnostic pathologists. Brian Murphy from UC Davis, California. Professor Murphy is a world-renowned expert in the field of bone pathology and is one of the co-authors of the volume on "Tumors of Bone, Cartilage and Other Hard Tissues" published by the Davis-Thompson DVM Foundation, as well as one of the authors of "Veterinary Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology". He gave delegates a comprehensive overview of all aspects of bone pathology, including bone sampling, proliferative bone lesions, inflammatory bone lesions and degenerative, developmental and metabolic diseases of bone. Other speakers included Dr Solange De Noon, a medical pathologist, Marie-Aude Genain, an imaging specialist, and Owen Davis, a veterinary oncologist. Aiforia, one of the event's sponsors, also presented on the use of artificial intelligence in digital pathology.

**Karina Fresneda** and **Alison Lee** represented NationWide Laboratories at the meeting, and presented interesting cases of their own related to bone pathology: **Giant Cell Reparative Granuloma in a Cat** and **Metallosis in a Dog Following Hip Replacement**. Alison also spoke on behalf of the BSVP Green Team to launch their Green Labs competition, promoting sustainable work practices in pathology labs.

We would like to thank the BSVP for a really enjoyable and interesting weekend and we look forward to the next meeting.

**At NationWide Laboratories we support the industry expertise and sponsor conferences and events by the leading veterinary expert bodies, such as BSAVA, BSVP, BVDSG, ESVCP/ECVCP etc. thus, helping to foster training and advance education for the benefit of animals and humans.**

## Let's talk Sustainability

At NationWide Laboratories we are committed to reducing the impact of our operations on the environment. We participate in Terracycle recycling programme. Our non-recyclable plastics are sent to an energy recovery facility and are used for electricity generation. We donate old laboratory equipment, such as microscopes, to schools rather than disposing of them in landfill.

Our Price List is printed onto Carbon Balanced Paper through World Land Trust scheme. We also use sustainable vegetable inks. We have introduced new bags for packaging your samples for courier collection. The new bags are sustainably sourced, carbon neutral, fully recyclable, made from sugar cane and come in small or large size depending on the number of submissions you need to enclose on the day. There are many greener initiatives on the go, so please ask us if you want to know more!



LABORATORIES

## ONLINE LEARNING



### Interactive learning hub in partnership with The Webinar Vet - bringing the veterinary community together

Enjoy bitesize pieces of valuable content coming in various formats to make your learning easy and engaging. Watch. Read. Listen. Communicate. We are open 24/7 all year round and accessible from the comfort of your home.

[CLICK HERE](#)



### Labfacts: now on Wikivet

Laboratory diagnostic reference guide written by NationWide Laboratories pathology team and aimed at helping you investigate diseases in small animals and horses.

[CLICK HERE](#)



### Multimedia hub in partnership with The Veterinary Practice by Improve International

Articles and podcasts by NationWide Laboratories pathologists. Advice on sample collection. Ask your laboratory expert series. Case studies and videos. Engaging and accessible content available 24/7 from any connected device.

[CLICK HERE](#)



# Proud of what we do - love working with you!

"I have worked at Nationwide Laboratories for 25 years and have seen many positive changes throughout this time. I work alongside and manage a group of 11 amazing people who make up an effective and competent team. My favourite and most rewarding part of my job is processing the samples to the UKAS accreditation requirements, maintaining these standards and then releasing results, therefore, knowing that we have made a positive impact on animals' lives and their wellbeing. I am proud to be part of such a great team".



**Sara Unwin,**  
Head of Biochemistry

"Microbiology is very much an investigative process. When we can identify the pathogen/parasite that is causing a problem and it all fits together with the history provided, it feels very rewarding. We have recently invested in VITEK2 automated platform able to run sensitivity tests and provide MIC values, which brings a lot of value to our clients and their patients. Our team here are just a great bunch of people who have such passion and enthusiasm for their roles that it's contagious!".



**Rebecca Helders, Head of  
Clinical Microbiology**

"My job focuses around the customer. I contact the customers to find out what I can do to make their routine easier and what our labs can do to help them. With this information I feed back to our management and to our laboratory teams and they go above and beyond to make sure that we can help YOU to help YOUR customers. This makes my job very rewarding".



**Catriona Bailey,**  
Account Manager

## VETERINARY WOMAN: SPOTLIGHT ON NATIONWIDE LABORATORIES TEAM

The woman behind  
the microscope



**Alison Lee**

"Be friendly  
and smile and  
make a small  
part of  
someone's  
day a nice  
experience..."



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The leader who believes  
change starts at home

"I want to  
inspire people  
that I have  
interactions  
with and leave  
them feeling a  
little bit  
better"



**Sandra Wells**



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