



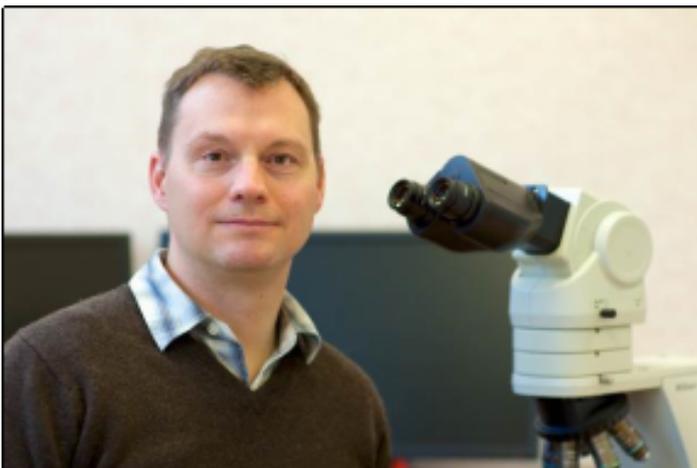
BattLab

Quality Veterinary Diagnostics
from disease to optimal health

Newsletter 04/2017

We are pleased to welcome you to the monthly BattLab newsletter. This newsletter will bring you the latest news and information about our laboratory and all tests that we can offer to all our clients.

Seminars



After the success of our first seminar of 2017, we are pleased to announce the second BattLab seminars. This time the focus will be on clinical pathology related aspects of canine adrenal and thyroid disease, primarily addressed to veterinarians. The seminar will take place at the end of April, details below:

Title: "Answers to the top 10 canine adrenal and thyroid endocrine questions"

Date: Tuesday 25th of April 2017, Starting 19:30

Speaker: Noel Clancey (DVM, DipACVP)

Venue: The Venture Centre, University of Warwick Science Park, Sir William Lyons Road, Coventry CV4 7EZ

For registration, please contact the laboratory at admin@battlab.com
Information about the other seminars will follow soon.

Keep an eye to our Facebook page

Updates on microbiology service

In the near future, BattLab will no longer be reporting sensitivity panels for certain bacterial organisms, particularly those deemed to be physiological flora. This is in direct response to several positions aimed at decreasing antimicrobial resistance.

Why are sensitivity results not given for all or select organisms isolated from a clinical specimen?

It is widely accepted that there is a need for improved practices of antimicrobial use to reduce bacterial antimicrobial resistance (AMR). As diagnosticians and clinicians, we have a responsibility to improve antimicrobial use practices in veterinary medicine.^{1, 2} It is important to recall that not all ill animals have bacterial infections and that not all bacterial infections require treatment with antimicrobials.²

Diagnostic laboratories are encouraged to withhold reporting of isolates that are deemed clinically irrelevant based on the bacterial species and the site of infection (such as *Enterococcus* and *Corynebacterium* species), and to use selective drug reporting to optimize animal care and foster antimicrobial stewardship. These decisions are determined case-by-case by the veterinary clinical bacteriologist, and may require discussion with the submitting veterinarian and other diagnosticians.

How can I learn more about my role in antimicrobial stewardship?

We recommend reviewing the British Veterinary Association's (BVA) position on antimicrobial use³. The BVA has established a 7-point plan on the responsible use of antimicrobials. This plan and a helpful printable poster are available on the BVA website under the "Policy" section (link also provided below). Similar information is also available from the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations. We also strongly encourage review of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine consensus statement on antimicrobial use in animals.² It provides recommendations on antimicrobial use and balancing effective therapy while minimizing the development of AMR in bacteria.

References:

- 1. Antimicrobial Use in Animals - Position Statement. Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. November 14, 2014. Available at: <http://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/antimicrobial-use-in-animals>.
- 2. Weese JS, Giguère S, Guardabassi L, et al. ACVIM consensus statement on therapeutic antimicrobial use in animals and antimicrobial resistance. *J Vet Intern Med.* 2015;29:487-498.
- 3. British Veterinary Association - Policies. <https://www.bva.co.uk/News-campaigns-and-policy/Policy/Medicines/Antimicrobials/>

Spayed or not spayed? This is the problem....

AMH (Anti Mullerian Hormone) is a glycoprotein produced by ovarian granulosa cells in females and Sertoli cells in males. In male animals, testosterone is responsible for the development of the reproductive tract, whereas AMH is needed to prevent the development of the mullerian ducts into the uterus and other mullerian structures. In female animals, AMH is not produced by the gonads during sex differentiation in early gestation, so the mullerian ducts automatically develop and the normal development of the female genitals occurs. AMH is expressed by granulosa cells of the ovary controlling the formation of primary follicles by inhibiting excessive follicular recruitment by follicle-stimulating hormone.



AMH measurement is a very useful diagnostic test **to detect the presence of ovarian or testicular tissue** when a neutered versus intact state is difficult to determine due to a lack of history (eg. stray dogs).

No stimulation test is required and the sample can be taken at any time, since females do not need to be showing signs of oestrus.

This and numerous other endocrinology tests for reproduction are available at BattLab.

Sample needed: Serum

Turnaround time: 4 days

For more information do not hesitate to contact us.

Cytology picture of the month

This high magnification picture (Wright Giemsa, 50x) is from a skin nodule from an adult dog, with a clinical history of weight loss and travel to Spain.

What is your diagnosis?

The sample has adequate cellularity and preservation. On a clear background with small numbers of red blood cells there is a mixed population of nucleated cells, mostly small lymphocytes, with a lower percentage of macrophages. The latter appear as large mononuclear cells, with abundant, lightly basophilic cytoplasm and often contain small basophilic structures, consistent with amastigotes of *Leishmania*. These are also observed in the background. Scattered neutrophils, likely blood derived, are also noted.

Canine leishmaniasis is a zoonotic disease caused by *Leishmania* parasites, transmitted by the bite of an infected phlebotomine sandfly. Traditionally thought of as a disease only found near the Mediterranean basin, recent research claims canine leishmaniasis is currently expanding in continental climate areas. *Leishmania* can manifest with skin lesions (including alopecia, ulcerative and exfoliative

dermatitis) and as a visceral/systemic process with epistaxis, enlarged peripheral lymph nodes, ocular signs and kidney dysfunction.

Diagnostic testing includes molecular biology and genetic techniques which provide high accuracy and high sensitivity/specificity. The most commonly employed methods in medical laboratories include Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assays, (ELISA), other serological assays and DNA amplification via Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). Diagnosis can be complicated by false positives caused by the leptospirosis vaccine and false negatives caused by testing methods lacking sufficient sensitivity.

Cytology is routinely performed in our laboratory with a turnaround time typically within 24 hours from the receipt of the sample. Our laboratory also offers a wide variety of testing for Leishmania, including serology and PCR. For more information don't hesitate to contact us.

60 SECONDS WITH...DAVID JONES, courier driver at Battlab



How long have you been at BattLab?

4 years and half.

Why do you do what you do?

When I retired from my previous employment (I was a police officer for over 30 years) I needed a new and different challenge. I saw this job available and it was ideal because it was part time and with sociable hours and I knew I would be meeting nice people throughout the time I am at work.

What do you do enjoy in your spare time?

I enjoy watching live football on TV and I am a life-long Coventry city supporter. I also enjoy horse riding through the countryside and coastal beaches. In the winter I like to go skiing in Austria, my favourite destination. Horse racing is another favourite pastime and I really love a day out at Stratford or Warwick.

We greet and wait for contact,
The BattLab team

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