

Paws claws and judder things

March 2020



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Welcome

Welcome to a new edition of our newsletter.

Take care of yourself, your family, friends and neighbours during this Coronavirus pandemic. Pick up the phone and check on anyone you are worried about. In uncertain times we need to ensure that we maintain social interactions and protect the vulnerable.

Please just call us on 0800 GRIBBLES if you need our help with anything.

Kind regards,
[Karen Cooper](#)
Marketing Administrator

Acorn poisoning

- the season is approaching . . .

ROB FAIRLEY

Each year significant numbers of acorn poisoning cases are seen in our laboratories and almost always in calves. They often occur when feed is short and animals are driven to consume acorns, or because animals have been put into areas to clean rank grass out - areas like laneways with mini plantations of English oaks in particular.

Sometimes cases of acorn poisoning are obvious as the calves are still among the oak trees, but it is quite common for them to have been moved away from the oak trees on to pasture or a crop several to many days previously.

How do you make the diagnosis if previous grazing locations are not mentioned or elicited from your history taking?

Clinically, you may have one or several sick, dull, anorexic calves. Calves with non-specific signs like that may not immediately raise a suspicion. However, if any of the calves have blood in their faeces (although not specific either) it should put acorn poisoning on your radar. Whether you suspect acorns or not, if you do serum biochemistry you will find the calves are severely azotemic. Severe azotemia in calves in autumn should immediately alert you to the possibility of acorn poisoning.

What if you are presented with a dead calf?

The classic findings are swollen, pale kidneys with perirenal edema. The kidneys may have red spots from patchy bleeding

into tubules. It is the perirenal edema though that should immediately prompt you to think of a renal issue.

Perirenal edema is an indication of acute renal tubular injury. It is not specific to acorn toxicity, but if you see it in calves in the autumn, acorn toxicity should be on your radar. Amaranthus (red-root) toxicity is another differential and in the Waikato, Hauraki and South Auckland areas *Leptospira copenhageni* has also been seen as a cause of acute renal injury with perirenal edema in calves.

The perirenal edema may extend along the connective tissue around the ureters. It is different from the gelatinous appearance of serous atrophy of fat. Many calves will also have excess clear fluid in the abdomen and chest. Some may have intense patchy reddening in the gut. This is a result of uremic vascular injury and is the reason for blood appearing in the faeces of some calves. For those who go the extra mile, affected calves may have linear ulcerations of the distal esophagus which may bring BVD to mind. BVD does not however give you perirenal edema or excess fluid in body cavities.

In a nutshell:

- Sick calves in autumn with blood in their faeces – think acorn toxicity as a possibility.
- Perirenal edema at post mortem in calves in autumn – again, consider acorn toxicity.



Need lab supplies?

One of the many fabulous improvements made when we switched website platforms last year, was simplifying consumables ordering online. The result of this change is evident in the huge increase in online orders we are now receiving.

We're very pleased that this process is now so much easier for you, and continue to make improvements based on feedback received from you. Some answers to the FAQs we received are noted in the bullet points.

One of the most common queries we get is regarding log-in details not working. If you are having trouble logging in, it could be that you are using your account details from our previous website—these will no longer work! So if you've tried unsuccessfully to login or

the password reset link does not work, this might be the reason. Simply register for an account and you're set.

Answers to our most FAQs:

- A link to consumables ordering is front and centre on our homepage to make it easy to find or you can also find it under the Veterinary Info menu.
- If you have not set up a user account since our new website went live (September 2019) you will need to do this prior to placing an order or downloading a copy of the order form. There are easy to follow set-up instructions for first time users on the consumable ordering page as well as a LOGIN link.
- You will not receive a confirmation email after placing an order. Instead, details of all your recent orders as well as downloads, shipping address, user account details etc. can be found under MY ACCOUNT once you are logged in.
- You will be invoiced for all consumables



purchased at the end of month along with your diagnostic testing so there's no option to pay online.

- If you prefer to fill out an order form to fax or email through, you can download one after logging from the consumables ordering page.

If you are having issues you just can't fix, simply give us a call on 0800 GRIBBLES and we'll get you sorted.

Case of the month

BERNIE VAATSTRA

Clinical history:

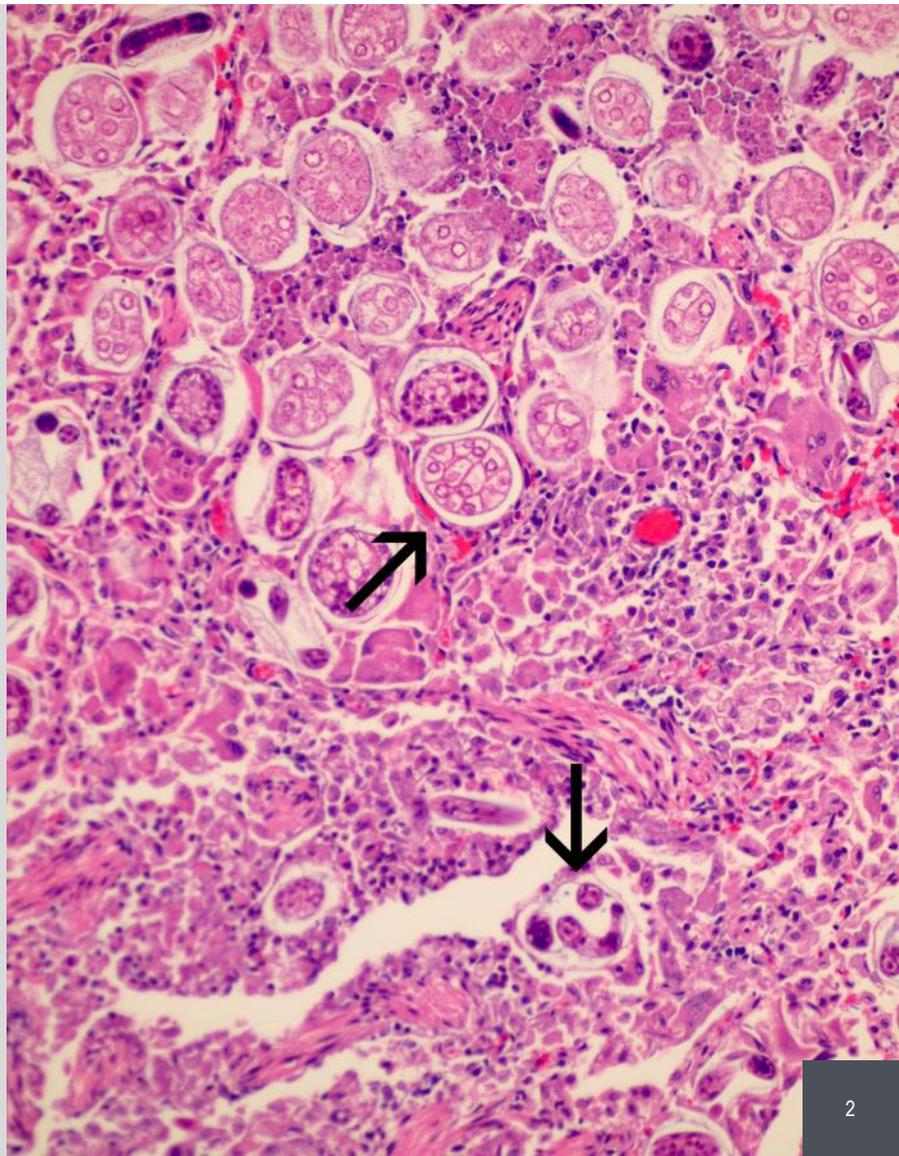
An 8-week-old male Domestic Shorthair rescue kitten died overnight three days after being castrated, vaccinated and transported. A post-mortem was conducted and samples collected for histopathology.

Laboratory testing:

Sections of heart, liver, spleen, pancreas, stomach and small intestine were unremarkable. Examination of the large and small airways of the lung revealed numerous nematode larvae and eggs accompanied by degenerate granulocytes, multinucleated giant cells, and karyorrhectic debris. See photograph 1.

See page 4 for diagnosis and discussion.

Photograph 1: Feline lung disrupted by large numbers of nematode eggs (diagonal arrow) and larvae (vertical arrow). H&E 200x.



Free equine ACTH testing!

In conjunction with Boehringer Ingelheim, we are very happy to be able to provide **free** equine ACTH testing to clients from 2 March—30 April 2020.

What we need:

- EDTA samples collected per the protocol below.
- A completed ACTH voucher from Boehringer Ingelheim—these can be obtained from the vet only section of the www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.nz website. Simply follow the instructions provided and download your voucher prior to collecting the blood samples.

Please note: Vouchers are to be sent along with your samples to the laboratory—free testing will NOT be possible without a voucher.

Collection protocol:

- Collect an EDTA blood sample any time of the day.
- The sample must be chilled within 3 hours of collection, preferably immediately after collection.
- If possible separate the plasma from the red cell pack. This must be done by centrifugation.
- Freeze the separated plasma and send to the lab with gel ice packs.
- If separation is not possible, wrap the chilled EDTA sample lightly in cotton wool and send with gel ice packs.

NOTE: It is very important that unseparated samples do not become frozen as the resulting haemolysis will invalidate the test results.

Supplies of chiller ice packs and bio-bottles can be obtained from your local Gribbles Veterinary laboratory.

General information about when this test is indicated:

Endogenous ACTH has largely superseded the overnight dexamethasone suppression test as the screening test of choice for the diagnosis of pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID, also known as equine Cushing's syndrome).

Testing can be performed at any time of the year although test performance is highest in the autumn. Both non-PPID and PPID horses display higher ACTH concentrations in the autumn (March, April, May) compared with other times of the year but the response is more exaggerated in PPID horses. A seasonal reference interval appropriate for the time of year must be used. The same test can be used in donkeys.



BVD testing for less MOO-lah!

We are excited to introduce a new BVD screening tool for cattle that provides a more cost effective solution for screening large numbers of animals than existing PCR or ELISA options.

BVD PCR results are given for each pool of samples, providing a quick and easy screen, and if further investigation to identify PI animals is required (pools are up to 23 samples in size)*.

The benefits of this new PCR screening test include:

- Suitable for screening dry-stock
- All animals tested must be >35 days old
- Suitable as a tool for BVD investigations in milking animals reducing the requirement for individual testing
- A much more cost effective option for large numbers of animals

Cost of testing:

30-60 samples: \$3.70 (ex. GST) per sample
60+ samples: \$3.50 (ex. GST) per sample

Turn-around time:

5 working days for pooled result*

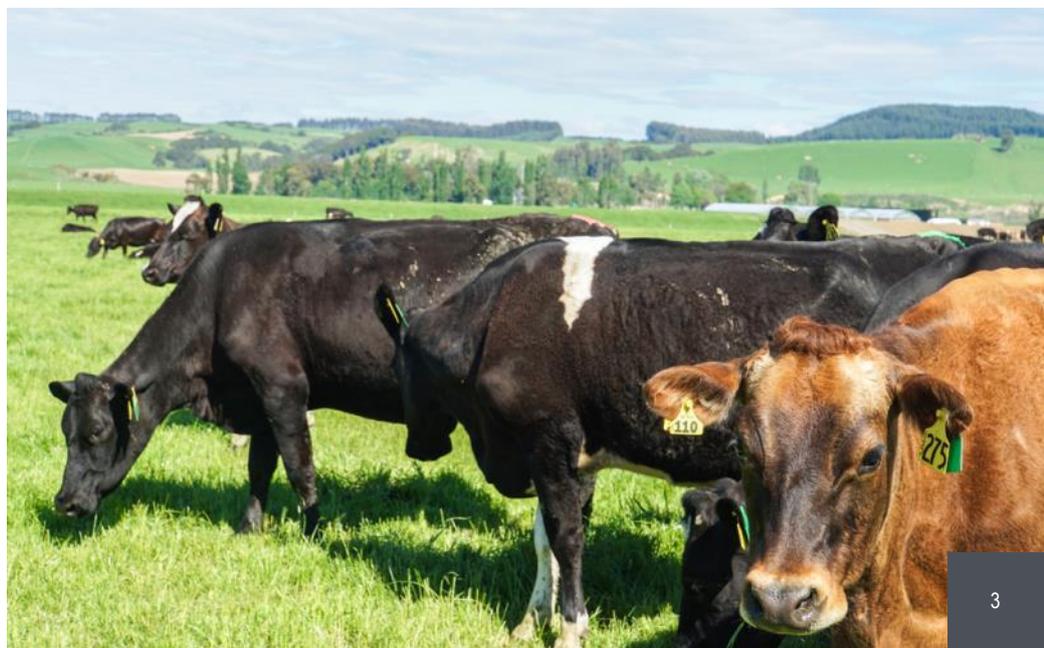
Samples required:

A minimum of 30 red top samples.

Simply quote **BVDPCRPR** or “**pooled only**” on your submission form to take advantage of this new testing regime. If you require further information, simply contact your local laboratory or Territory Manager and we'll be happy to help.

Notes:

* Individual testing on positive pools will be carried out only on request by serum Ag ELISA and will be charged per our current pricelist.



Snippets

- **Please remember to include a clinical history** with all cases if you require an interpretation of results from one of our fabulous pathologists. They are super awesome, but mind-reading is generally outside their skill set!
- **Facial eczema spore counts** - please send data through your by 2pm each Thursday so we can include it in our national report. Find a form, instructions, as well as a link to sign up to receive the report and/or weekly reminders on our website [here](#).

Case of the month

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Diagnosis: Pulmonary aelurostrongylosis—severe, chronic, multifocal, necrotising and granulomatous bronchointerstitial pneumonia.

Discussion: The kitten had severe pulmonary disease associated with lungworm infection. Larval morphology was compatible with *Aelurostrongylus abstrusus*.

Aelurostrongylus abstrusus has an indirect life cycle. Cats are the definitive host and may be infected by slugs or snails as the intermediate host or rodents, birds or reptiles as paratenic hosts. The pre-patent period is 35-48 days. Infections range from subclinical to severe infestations resulting in respiratory distress. Young cats and outdoor/free-ranging cats at greater risk. The lung lesions in the present case were severe enough to explain severe respiratory distress and death.

Reference: Elsheikha HM, Schnyder M, Traversa D, *et al.* Updates on feline aelurostrongylosis and research priorities for the next decade. *Parasites & Vectors*. 9:389, 2016. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13071-016-1671-6>

Many thanks to the Napier SPCA for this interesting case.

Our new Territory Manager

We are very happy to welcome Eugene van Niekerk to our commercial team as a Territory Manager. Eugene joined us in mid-February and is based out of our Auckland laboratory.

Eugene and his family relocated from South Africa to New Zealand in 2017. Eugene has over 13 years experience in the

pharmaceutical industry, holding positions ranging from Sales Representative to Key Account Manager. His experience covers multiple industries including diagnostics, OTC medicines, generics and nutraceuticals. Prior to working in sales, Eugene was a professional cricket player and played in both South Africa and Scotland.

Outside of work he enjoys playing golf, bike riding, spending time next to the sports field (especially when his kids are playing), family life and appreciating the beauty New Zealand has to offer.

Eugene can be reached on 027 250 1647 or Eugene.vanniekerk@gribbles.co.nz.



Contact us

Contacting Gribbles Veterinary couldn't be easier.

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Last but not least, please feel free to contact your local territory manager:

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