

Paws claws and judder things

November 2020



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Welcome

Welcome to a new edition of our newsletter.

This month we showcase our fabulous new trace element reporting ability, welcome new staff members, provide a laugh or two, a new *Case of the Month* and plenty more!

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

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

NEW regional trace element trends

In April 2019 we upgraded our trace element reporting to include cumulative results for routine screening. This year our outstanding team of programmers have gone an extra step, and we are now able to report cumulative results for a farm PLUS local regional trends for a specific trace element.

Cumulative reporting can be used to identify seasonal trends within the same year or previous years specific to that farm. This enables veterinarians to quickly track results for specific farms without having to find previous trace element reports and advise on strategic supplementation. It also provides a more user friendly, visual reference for farmers that can be used to track changes over time and align supplementation with management decisions.

We have now added regional trending to the reports so that farmers and veterinarians can see where the farm sits in relation to other farms within their region.

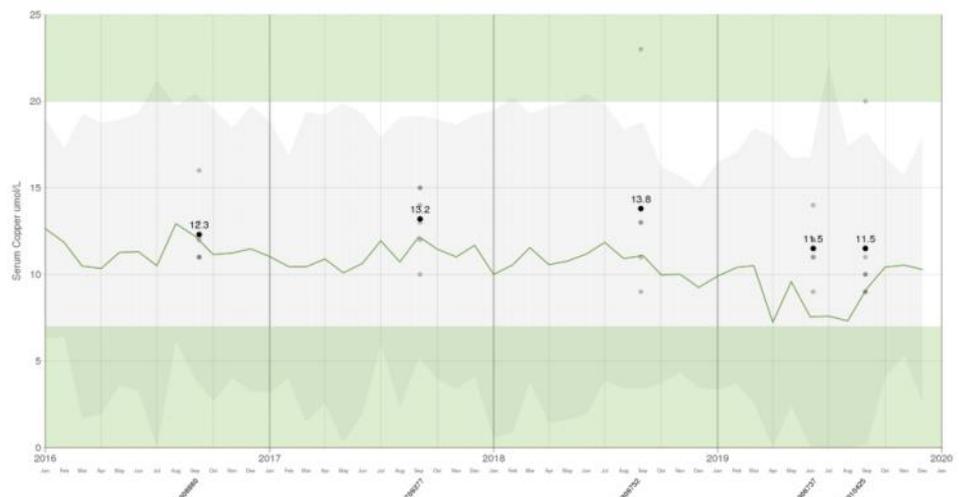
This new graph feature can be used with farmers as a tool to highlight the importance of regular trace element testing, by showing that deficiencies / toxicities are being seen in their area.

Trace element reports will now include:

- Individual numerical test results for the current case
- Graphs showing cumulative results from the last five years for the property (if available).
- Mean local regional trends are now also displayed on the graphs as a green line with grey shading representing the range of variation within that region (approximately 95% of results, or 2 standard deviations). See Figure 1.

Regional data is dependent on accurate identification of the species, age and location, so please supply as many details as possible on submissions so you and your farming clients can make the most of this exciting innovation.

Figure 1. Trace element report showing cumulative individual test results (grey dots), mean result (black dot and number), mean regional result (green line), variation within region (grey shading, 2SD from mean).



eResults - don't be the last to switch!

We've had OUTSTANDING feedback from so many customers who have made the switch to our new eResults platform, but we know there are a few stragglers who are still using the old app. So don't be like the last person with their party hat still on, make the change today!

One of the reasons we upgraded our



eResults system was because the old app had been assessed as a security risk. Our new platform has top-notch security measures to ensure your data is secure at all times. So if you are still using our old app, please delete it from your device NOW!

We have pushed out the cut-off date for the app until 25 November, but will not be able to make it available past this time.

There are some very easy to follow instructions for activating your account on the new eResults platform, so don't put it off, [click this link](#) now and choose 'forgot my password' to generate a new password for the new platform. If you haven't used eResults in the past 12-months or ever, no problems! Go to <https://uat.eresults.gribbles.co.nz> and follow the instructions to sign up.

If you require further information on how to set up an account [have a read through this information sheet](#), and you'll be sorted in no time at all. If you find you need more help, don't hesitate to give us a call on 0800 GRIBBLES and we'll make sure you're set up.

Submission forms online

We've had a few online and telephone queries lately regarding submission forms, so thought it was timely to remind you that they're all available online.

We hate to see you caught short, so have loaded all of our submission forms to our website, and they are super easy to download or print off.

Simply visit our [website](#) and select VET INFO from the top menu bar, or from the middle of the home-screen; then choose your animal type and choose the type of submission form required from the list available. Easy.



Case of the month

KATHRYN JENKINS

Clinical history:

A seven-year-old female rabbit was presented for a swelling on the right hind limb, which was worsening after being first noticed two weeks previously. At presentation, the rabbit had muscle atrophy in both hind limbs, with a hairless, nodular mass noted directly above the right calcaneus. The mass was sampled by fine needle aspirate for cytology.

Cytology findings:

The smears had high cellularity comprising numerous highly pleomorphic spindle cells, amidst thick blood on a proteinaceous background. The spindle cells had marked amounts of basophilic finely granular cytoplasm, often with wispy cytoplasmic tails,

large oval to irregular nuclei (up to 70µm diameter), with stippled to coarse chromatin and 2-6 prominent nucleoli. The cells displayed marked anisocytosis and anisokaryosis, with macronucleoli, irregular nucleoli and marked anisonucleoliosis. Frequent karyomegaly with binucleate and multinucleate cells noted (up to 10 nuclei), often of varying nuclear size, including satellite (micro) nuclei. Frequent mitotic figures noted, often large and atypical with lag chromosomes (see Figure 1). Occasional clumps of smaller shrunken cells were also noted, with hyper eosinophilic cytoplasm and pyknotic nuclei (necrosis). There were increased heterophils and occasional macrophages, with no infectious agents identified.

Diagnosis:

Anaplastic sarcoma with giant cells.

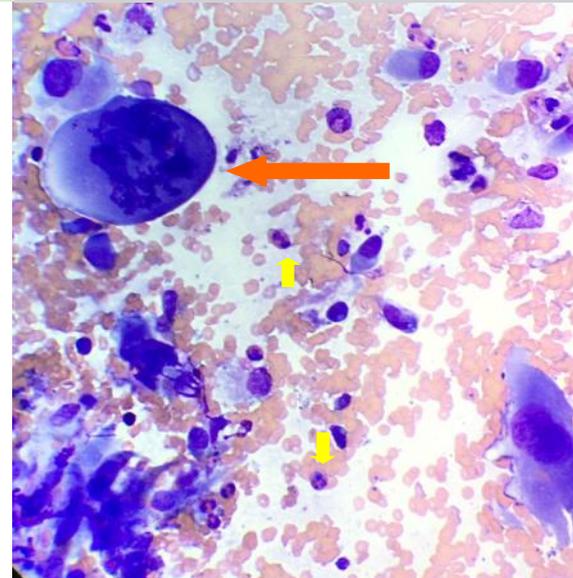


Figure 1: FNA of a nodular mass from a rabbit leg. Numerous pleomorphic spindle cells, including a remarkably large atypical mitotic figure (orange arrow). Increased numbers of heterophils are also in the background (yellow arrows). Heterophils have rusty orange-pink granules and are the rabbit equivalent to neutrophils.

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Welcome Sunao

We are delighted to welcome another outstanding pathologist to our nationwide team. Dr Sunao Fujita our newest Clinical Pathologist. Sunao has braved the trip from Japan to New Zealand, and even more impressively, two weeks in managed isolation with his family to join our team.

Sunao graduated from Azabu University in Japan in 2004 with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and spent the next nine years in small and exotic animal practice. Sunao then moved to the USA to complete his clinical pathology residency at Oklahoma State University. During his residency, Sunao engaged in diagnostic services and teaching,

as well as an internship at Antech Diagnostics in California.

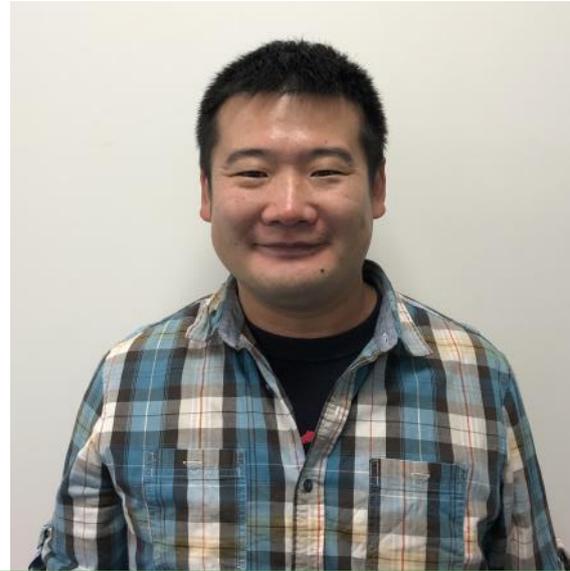
After passing his ACVP board exams, Sunao returned to Japan and worked as a clinical pathologist at the Fujifilm Vet Systems Co Ltd, engaging in diagnostic services (cytology, haematology, bone marrow exam and urinalysis), quality control and consultation with practitioners. He was also involved in educational seminars and as a speaker at conferences during this time.

Sunao is interested in all aspects of clinical pathology, particularly cytology and haematology, with a focus on infectious diseases.

He has moved to New Zealand with his wife and two children and his personal interests include cooking, watching sports, and

outdoor activities.

Sunao is based in Auckland and you can reach him anytime on 09 5744710 or sunao.fujita@gribbles.co.nz.



For a bit of a laugh!

We recently received a great suggestion from a client, to include a little something funny in our monthly newsletter. We love a good laugh ourselves, so have decided to include one of the most popular Friday funnies from our Facebook page each month.

We hope you enjoy this new addition, and if you never want to miss out on our latest updates and other gems, visit us on [Facebook](#) and hit the like or follow buttons!



HOT: The liver biopsy kit. The tubes in the kit are **PERFECT** for your liver biopsy samples, as they keep your samples in ideal condition for testing, ensuring you get the best results possible. Even better the kits are free! 'Buy' them online [here](#).

NOT: Christmas decorations in November.

Welcome back Paul

Paul Fitzmaurice has re-joined the Gribbles Veterinary team for a fixed term covering the Production Animal Category Manager position, while Rachel Whitehead takes a leave of absence.

Paul is no stranger to many of you as he was Laboratory Manager of the Palmerston North Gribbles Veterinary laboratory from September 2017 until February 2019. Paul has been working together with Rachel over the past weeks and is ready to take over his new role on November 16.

Paul's knowledge of the Gribbles Veterinary business is making the transition quite straight forward and we are very happy to welcome Paul back to the

Gribbles team.

If you need to get in touch with Paul, he can be reached via email paul.fitzmaurice@gribbles.co.nz or mobile 027 604 5690.



Day 21, no one suspects a thing.



Snippets

- **BVD bulk milk orders** - please remember to include a current supplier number on all bulk milk orders, especially if any of your farmers have changed supply numbers this season. If we have supplier numbers in our system that are not correct, we cannot arrange for samples to be taken. Make things even easier for yourself by ordering testing using our online bulk milk portal. Find out more about it [here](#) and how to access the portal [here](#).
- **Vitamin A and E testing** on plasma/serum samples is now carried out on Thursdays, with results reported on Friday.
- **Festive season laboratory closures** - our laboratories will be closed from 25-28 December 2020 and 1-4 January 2021. It will be business as usual for all other working days through the Christmas / New Year period.
- **Only 40 days** until Christmas. Just saying. Buy locally-made and support New Zealand businesses.

Case of the month

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Discussion: When multinucleated giant cells are seen in cytologic preparations, differentials include granulomatous lesions (e.g. macrophages in mycobacterial infections), bone lesions (osteoclasts) and neoplastic spindle cells. The marked nuclear atypia, especially variably sized nuclei and satellite nuclei within the multinucleated cells, supported a neoplastic origin in this case.

A recent report on 90 giant cell soft tissue sarcomas from domestic rabbits, divided the cases into two tumour entities, anaplastic sarcoma with giant cells, and histiocytic sarcoma.

Anaplastic sarcoma with giant cells was more commonly reported (72/90 cases). Similar to the reported case, the majority of tumours (86%), were present in the dermis or subcutis, with legs being the most common location (40%). Other reported locations included thoracic and abdominal wall, head and inguinal region. Distant metastasis to lungs, kidney, liver and heart were reported in a low number of cases. CD204 was negative in these cells.

Histiocytic sarcoma was reported in fewer cases (17/90), and most frequently occurred in the lungs, with a quarter of rabbits having a concurrent pneumothorax (likely secondary to tumour effacement of lung tissue). Other reported locations included mediastinum, liver, kidney, cardiac and skeletal muscle tissue. Multinucleate giant cells can be massive, with up to 300 nuclei reported in some cases. These cases stained positive for CD204 via immunohistochemistry (supporting histiocytic lineage).

Both entities were observed in older rabbits (median 7 to 8 years-old). They both appear highly cellular on histopathology, with frequent multinucleated cells and atypical mitotic figures, with large areas of necrosis, haemorrhage and mixed inflammation. Both entities appear highly invasive with strong criteria of malignancy, with evidence for metastatic spread in some cases. For cases occurring on the leg, complete excision is difficult, and high recurrence rate is likely. Overall prognosis is considered guarded.

Thanks to Wainuiomata Carevets for this interesting case.

Reference:

Bertram CA, Garner MM, Reavill G, Klopfeisch R, Kiupel M. Giant cell sarcomas in Domestic rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). *Veterinary Pathology*. 57:490-496, 2020



Gribbles
VETERINARY

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