

Paws claws and judder things

October 2020



What's inside?

1. BVD testing simplified
2. No Synacthen? What to do?
Case of the month
3. Fancy a needle with that?
Bulk milk BVD testing
What's hot, what's not?
4. Snippets
Case of the month discussion
Contact details

Welcome

Welcome to a new edition of our newsletter.

This month we remind you of the changes made to BVD testing during September, some reminders for sample requirements, an avian *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

BVD testing simplified

BVD testing doesn't have to be complicated. We have recently simplified our BVD testing options and updated the tests for various ages groups ensuring all details are up to date with the latest guidelines.

Calves <35 days old:

Up until recently, using antigen ELISA testing in animals less than 35 days-old was not recommended due to interference from maternal antibodies and the potential for false negative results. Recent work now indicates that antigen ELISA is a suitable test to use on ear notch samples for animals in this age group. PCR is a suitable test for serum or ear notch regardless of age. Find more information on our website [here](#).

Individual animals >35 days old:

When BVD incursion is likely, we use combination testing—PCR on pooled samples and the antigen ELISA (if required) to test individual animals in any positive pool. Serum or ear notch are both suitable sample types.

For screening of healthy animals where a BVD incursion is unlikely (e.g. bull screening, beef screening), we offer a cost effective BVD screening test on pooled serum samples.

Find more information on our website [here](#).

Herd monitoring:

Dairy herds: Our Herd Guardian testing makes it easy to pre-schedule dairy company supplied samples for BVD PCR and antibody ELISA testing on bulk milk samples. Packages are available to suit most herd situations, and an easy to use online portal can be used to order testing

and view results.

Beef herds: Monitoring beef herds is recommended by annual screening of unvaccinated, replacement / keeper animals, 10-18 months-old for BVD antibody levels. Animals need to be greater than 10 months-old at the time of sampling. Find more information on our website [here](#).

<35 days: PCR (serum or ear notch) or antigen ELISA (ear notch only)

>35 days, incursion likely: PCR or antigen ELISA (serum or ear notch)

>35 days, no incursion: Pooled PCR screen (serum)

Herd Guardian BM packages: PCR and antibody ELISA (milk and serum)

Beef herds: Pooled or individual antibody ELISA (serum)

If you have any questions or would like copies of information sheets please [visit our website](#) or contact your local Territory Manager.



No Synacthen? What to do?

KATHRYN JENKINS

We have had a few enquiries recently regarding how to monitor Cushing's, and how to diagnose Addison's disease, when Synacthen (for ACTH stimulation testing) is difficult to obtain. So here is some information for you.

Monitoring Cushing's disease (when treated with Vetoryl/Trilostane):

To monitor control of Cushing's (in the absence of ACTH-stimulation testing), we can use the 'pre-pill' serum cortisol level. Obtain a serum sample approximately one hour either side of when the usual Vetoryl/Trilostane dose is due (we are measuring the expected peak cortisol level). For example, if a client is due to give Vetoryl/Trilostane at 8am, a blood sample for serum cortisol can be taken anytime from 7-9am. The animal would then receive its Vetoryl/Trilostane dose after the blood sample is taken.

Guidelines for pre-Vetoryl cortisol results:

Clinical signs and history are important in

interpretation of pre-Vetoryl cortisol monitoring. The presence of PUPD, alopecia, lethargy, distended abdomen, panting etc. may suggest inadequate control, whereas GI signs, inappetence and weakness may suggest the need for a decreased dose. This monitoring technique is not recommended for dogs that appear highly stressed/aggressive in clinic. In dogs that are clinically unwell (e.g. vomiting, diarrhoea, inappetence), Vetoryl should be stopped and an ACTH-stimulation test performed.**

Pre-Vetoryl cortisol (nmol/L) in dogs with no clinical signs:

<40	Re-evaluate clinical signs, consider lower dose, recheck in one month
40-138	Keep current dose, recheck in three months
>140	Re-evaluate clinical signs, consider BID dosing or small increase in dose, recheck in one month.

Pre-Vetoryl Cortisol (nmol/L) in dogs with persistent clinical signs of HAC:

<40	Re-evaluate diagnosis of HAC
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If cortisol is not decreased, consider increased dose (increase frequency to BID first), and recheck in one month.

Further information can be found at www.dechra.co.uk

***In the absence of synthetic ACTH, for unwell dogs, we need to evaluate all routine data (CBC, biochemistry, blood glucose, urinalysis, survey imaging) to identify any concurrent disease. Monitoring then resumes once concurrent disease is stabilised. Basal cortisol can be used to evaluate for potential clinically significant hypocortisolemia.*

Diagnosing Addison's disease and cases where there are normal LDDST results with suspect Cushing's disease:

In these cases we rely heavily on clinical presentation, and utilising all available routine data at our disposal (e.g. CBC, biochemistry, blood glucose, urinalysis and imaging). The more findings that fit the endocrinopathy, the more confidence we have.

Addison's disease is especially difficult without ACTH-stim testing, however we can use additional testing to help exclude the diagnosis (e.g. basal cortisol >55 nmol/L, UCCR >3).

We're always happy to discuss any of the more tricky endocrine cases with you. Talk to us today—0800 GRBIBBLES.



Case of the month

REBECCA ALLAN

Often the most impressive and captivating cytology smears, are the ones that require us to deliver the worst news and this case was no exception.

Clinical history

An adult male budgie presented to the veterinarian with a 15-20 mm soft tissue mass in the upper femoral area of the left leg. He was non-weight bearing and had lost a lot of weight.

Laboratory testing

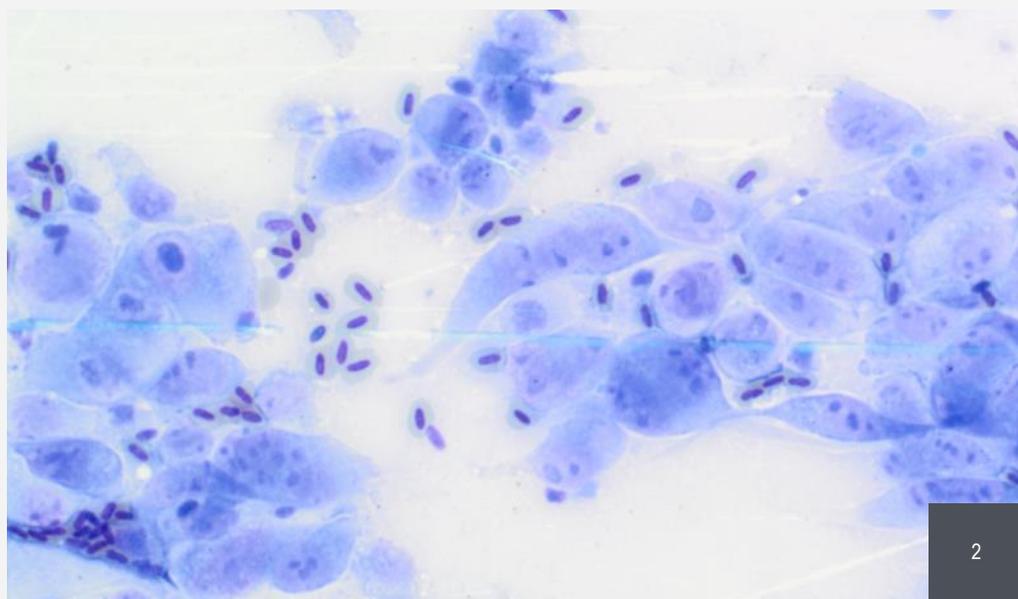
A fine needle aspirate, taken for cytology, was highly cellular consisting of a population of pleomorphic spindle cells in a light

haemorrhagic background. Cells were fusiform to plump to oval, had multiple prominent, often large and angular nucleoli, with variable N:C ratio and moderate to marked anisocytosis and anisokaryosis. Also observed were numerous, variable sized

multinucleated cells and bizarre mitotic figures.

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Photograph below: Cytology smear showing a population of spindle cells displaying marked criteria of malignancy. Diff Quik, 50x.



Fancy a needle with that?

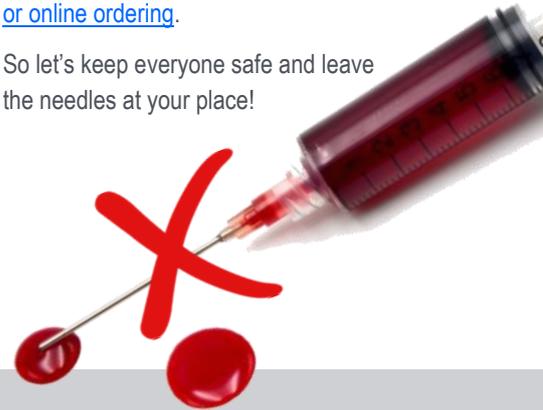
There are many sample types that need to be collected with a syringe and needle. Our [online Veterinary Handbook](#) covers sample collection requirements for cytology and urinalysis, and interestingly enough, we don't once mention that we'd like to receive a needle with any of these

fluids or biopsies!

Surprisingly often, we receive needles on syringes with samples. Because of the potential danger of needle-stick injuries, we request that you **DO NOT** submit samples in syringes with needles attached. If a sample is drawn using a syringe, it should be transferred to an appropriate specimen container to help preserve the cells/sample until it can be tested. All needles **must** be disposed of in your clinic prior to packaging and sending via courier to the laboratory.

If you are caught short and do not have any specimen containers available, please remove the needle and cap the syringe prior to sending to us. Syringe caps can be purchased using our [consumables order form](#) or [online ordering](#).

So let's keep everyone safe and leave the needles at your place!



Bulk milk BVD testing reminder!

Gribbles Veterinary has all the tools to simplify tracking BVD on-farm, and it's all available from the comfort of your clinic or armchair. No need to fill out forms or go on-farm to collect samples.

Our selection of Herd Guardian bulk milk BVD packages together with our new BVD bulk milk portal, herd testing for BVD couldn't be easier! The very popular new online portal enables you to order testing online, as well as

view all of your clinic's booked orders for the coming season.

Please ensure that you enter a current supplier number on any bulk milk order, 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.

If you would like to read more about our bulk milk testing options, our website contains all you need:

- [Herd Guardian bulk milk packages](#)
- [BVD milk portal](#)—how does it work?
- [BVD milk portal](#)—how to access?



Our website has been running in it's new format for just over a year now, and looking at the metrics, it would seem the changes we made to the site flow have made a positive impact!

The biggest changes we made to our website were removing the need to log in to access the vet information, and making our online shop more user friendly. Consequently, our website is now attracting a lot more traffic and the use of our online shop has increased

dramatically. We're completely stoked that you are finding the new format much easier to use!

So what were the **hottest** website pages during September?

1. [About us](#) (up 23% on September 2019)
2. [Useful info & forms](#) (visits up 37%)
3. [Veterinary handbook](#) (visits up **94%!)**

The increased use of our online Vet Handbook is really FANTASTIC! The handbook contains so much amazing information and is reviewed by our team of pathologists on a regular basis. It is a resource you should bookmark and refer to often—hopefully most, if not all of your questions can be answered right there. Simply hit the search button on our website

and let it do the hard work for you!

You'll also be pleased to know that your clients are checking us out too, and our [pet owners page](#) "*Why is pathology important?*" is in the top 10 pages, with visits up a whopping **257%** on September last year! Hopefully this is having a flow-on effect and is encouraging owners to bring their pets to their local veterinarian for check-ups and wellness testing.

And what were the **hottest** consumable items ordered during September?

1. 70mL sample containers
2. 1.3mL red top mini-tubes
3. 35mL sample containers

Do you order online? You can buy one tube or 50, easy as. [Check it out here today.](#)

Snippets



- ***Bordetella bronchiseptica*** has been isolated from a couple of cats in the Auckland region over the last few weeks. One case was from an 8-week-old kitten that had collapsed overnight, the x-ray revealed pneumonia and the kitten died within 3 hours. The second case was from an 11-month-old cat with a cough and broncho-interstitial pattern with patchy opacities.
- **Have you tried** out our new eResults platform yet? Visit <https://vet.eresults.gribbles.co.nz> today and reactivate your existing account by using the 'forgot my password' link or register for a new account using the 'sign up' function. The old app will be switched off at the end of this month. Read more on our [website here](#).
- **Our winter NSAID promotion** finishes at the end of this month, so you have a few more weeks to take advantage of this great offer—NSAID panel + free urine SG for only \$22.66 (ex. GST). [Read the full details here on our website](#).

Case of the month

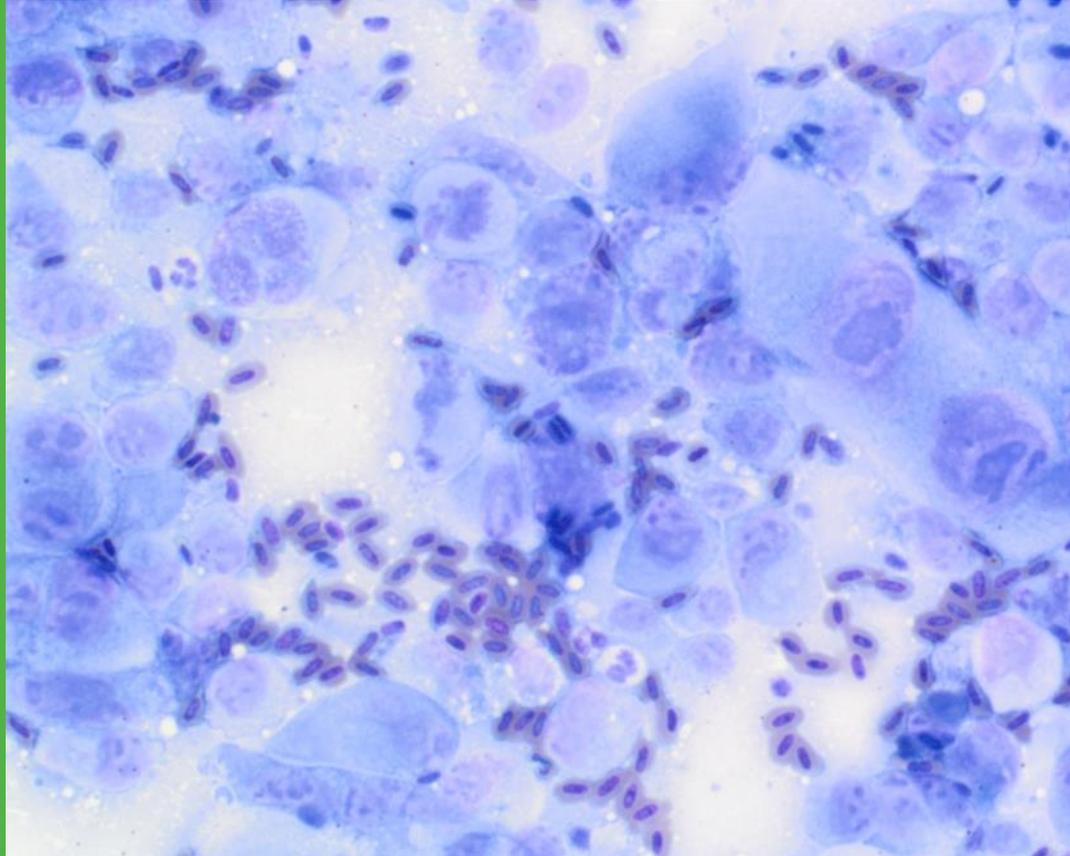
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Diagnosis: Sarcoma.

Discussion: The tumour appeared poorly differentiated with almost every known criteria of malignancy exhibited in an extreme way, suggestive of a high-grade tumour. Histopathology to further define the type of sarcoma, was not done, however a rhabdomyosarcoma or fibrosarcoma would be differentials for a tumour in this location.

Thanks to Todd Halsey of Halifax Veterinary Centre for this interesting case.

Photograph below: Cytology smear showing a population of spindle cells displaying marked criteria of malignancy. Diff Quik, 50x.



Gribbles
VETERINARY

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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