



ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY

GUELPH

KEMPTVILLE

Volume 4, Issue 3

In this issue:

GENERAL

Coming this fall - New AHL User's Guide

Sample submission notes - Maedi-visna testing must now be submitted directly to Charlottetown - other reminders

A primer on PCR - Everything you wanted to know about PCR testing, and an update on PCR testing at the AHL

ETEC diarrhea - Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC) strains are now further characterized at the AHL through collaboration with Dr. Gyles in the OVC

Leptospira PCR validation - The AHL is offering **free testing of urine from leptospirosis suspects** in order to validate a new lepto PCR test

CATTLE

PCR typing of BVDV isolates has been added to typing by monoclonal antibodies - 52% are type 1, and 48% are type 2

Mastitis lab update - AHL-Guelph has improved our critical mass of staff and has **extended hours of service** in the front office, bacteriology, mastitis, and clinical pathology - to 7 PM Monday to Friday, and 9-5 on Saturdays. Mastitis testing update

POULTRY

The Poultry Program Team is up and running, involving staff of OMAF and the UofG

The Abbott Chlamydia ELISA kit is no longer available for testing of avian stool samples

SWINE

A European-like strain of PRRSV has been detected in Ontario

H4N6 influenza virus has been isolated from pigs in Ontario

Large economic losses occurred due to PRRSV infection in a 1400-sow herd

An [***Actinobacillus suis* outbreak**](#) appears related to an underlying PRRSV infection

A [**classical swine fever \(hog cholera\) outbreak**](#) is underway in the United Kingdom. Could it happen here?

HORSES

[***Clostridium difficile* infection**](#) is emerging as a significant cause of gastrointestinal disease in **humans, horses, and pigs**. The AHL offers an ELISA for toxin detection

COMPANION ANIMALS

[**Systemic toxoplasmosis**](#) developed in a mature cat, likely as a result of corticosteroid therapy that was being used to deal with vaccine-related thrombocytopenia

AHL PEOPLE

The AHL welcomes several [**familiar faces**](#) in their new roles

AHL WEBSITE

The new [**AHL website**](#) is user-friendly and searchable. Give it a try!

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Animal Health Laboratory
Laboratory Services Division
University of Guelph
Box 3612
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Editor: **Dr. Grant Maxie**
Editorial Assistant: **Ms. Helen Oliver**

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Comments? Suggestions?

If you have comments or suggestions, or would like to be added to, or removed from, the AHL Newsletter **mailing list**, please contact

Ms. Helen Oliver at:
Phone: (519) 824-4120, ext. 4538
Fax: (519) 821-8072
E-mail: holiver@lsd.uoguelph.ca

Animal Health Laboratory Accreditations:

American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) - lab system

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) - EIA

Canadian Association of Environmental Analytical Laboratories (CAEAL) - metals

ISO 9002 registered - toxicology

Thyroid Registry of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals Inc. (OFA) - thyro