



Test-A-Pet is part of the diagnostic portfolio of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Liverpool



The Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Liverpool is one of the foremost veterinary schools in Europe with an enviable clinical caseload in small animals, equids and livestock and a vibrant research culture as a member of a research intensive Russell-group university.

These two elements, clinical activity and research, underpin the diagnostic services offered by the Faculty. These have in many cases evolved from our research, developing assays for pathogen detection which may be protein or nucleic acid based. There now exists an extensive portfolio of diagnostic services backed up by world-class expertise and it is this latter feature with the potential to offer top-level advice in relation to test results which is especially distinctive. Test-A-Pet is the diagnostic service offered by the Veterinary Parasitology group and has emerged from our

interest and knowledge of parasites of companion animals. As one of the world's premier research groups on canine neosporosis we have produced an IFAT test to diagnose infection in dogs; we also developed an ELISA for cattle which is marketed by Mast Diagnostics (<http://www.mastgrp.com>). For a number of years we have led research and provided advice on the risks of exposure to pet dogs and cats to exotic parasites. This is now reflected in our diagnostic service by the tests we offer for travelling pets. Since the introduction of the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) hundreds of thousands of dogs and cats have been imported into Britain who might have been exposed to serious, exotic infections abroad. These risks have been highlighted in articles written by the group (see references of interest on our website).

We also offer a number of specialist services of particular interest to pharmaceutical companies and others in support of their applied research. Examples include the ELISA to detect antibodies in horses to the tapeworm *Anoplocephala perfoliata*, developed during research at Liverpool which showed the role this parasite plays in colic in horses. We are the only laboratory in the world offering this assay (through "Diagnosteq" our equine parasitology diagnostic service). It is backed up by other conventional diagnostic tests for equine parasites to provide a comprehensive service for the equine clinician.

The Diagnostic Pathology service, of the Department of Veterinary Pathology offers specialist electron-microscopy and immunohistological examinations as well as routine pathological examination of tissues. Small animal virus diagnosis is also offered within the department.

The Veterinary Immunology group offers a range of immunological tests for small and large animals from their diagnostic service Vetnostics.

This second edition of Test-A-Pet news looks at our research in endemic parasites here at Veterinary Parasitology where Test-A-Pet is based and in particular at *Neospora caninum* in our in-focus article.

Links to the diagnostic services within the Faculty can be found at: http://www.liv.ac.uk/vets/diagnostic_services.htm



TEST-A-PET
Veterinary Diagnostics

“At the University of Liverpool, the Veterinary Faculty's multi-disciplinary diagnostic provision and clinical support collectively meets a wide-range of diagnostic needs for Veterinary Surgeons in small and large animal practice. Such a provision is unique in the Northwest of Britain”

In this issue...