

# TEST-A-PET

## news

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## TEST-A-PET

The Veterinary Parasitology  
Diagnostic Service

### Things change....

**TEST-A-PET was developed from the activities of the Veterinary Parasitology Research Group, which delivers world-class research and veterinary education. The service helps to support these and it has never been solely a commercial entity. From an informal beginning in the 1990s, to including the Pet Travel Scheme in 2000, then being formally launched in 2004 and through to the present day, we have continued to develop and expand whilst remaining a specialist service firmly embedded in academia. Recent publications demonstrate our continuing commitment to this ethos, examples of which can be found on page four, with many more archived on our website.**

In what is our biggest development to date, we are very excited to announce the launch of our new diagnostic portfolio, which includes several service improvements and significantly expands the number of tests we offer. In addition to providing diagnostics primarily for dogs and cats, we have always accepted submissions from other host species, so in recognition of this, we have now incorporated a number of new tests in a variety of small and large animals, drawing naturally from our considerable expertise and experience.

We have comprehensively revised the prices for all our tests and hope you will agree that they are extremely competitive. Because we are completely self-contained and do not refer any tests to other laboratories, we can continue to provide rapid turnaround times and keep our prices low. Although there have been some

increases in price for existing tests, they are modest, lower than the current rate of inflation and this is the first increase since 2007. A copy of our new price list is included with this newsletter for your convenience.

We continue to offer free pre and post-test clinical advice via our consultant vet Dr. Jackie Barber, details of which can be found on page two along with a brief career resume. Jackie talks at length in our in-focus article about tick-borne diseases of dogs and cats and mentions the latest change to the Pet Travel Scheme.

2011 has also brought several other changes....

Our pre-eminent head Professor Alexander (Sandy) Trees is to retire in September after 30 years at the University of Liverpool, serving most recently as the President of the RCVS. I would personally like to wish him all the very best for his retirement and thank him for his authoritative guidance over the years, always given with the inimitable enthusiasm for which he is well known and for which he will be surely missed. It was through Sandy's pioneering research into canine neosporosis and his recognition of the parasitic disease implications of the Pet Travel Scheme that TEST-A-PET was developed. We are delighted that he will now be an associate consultant to the service once he assumes his new role as an Emeritus Professor.

Our colleagues in Veterinary Immunology announced the closure of the Vetnostics diagnostic service in March following the retirement of

Di Isherwood. Like Sandy, Di was a very popular and respected figure and I wish her well. The *Borrelia burgdorferi* and *Bartonella henselae* testing previously offered by Vetnostics is now part of our new portfolio (see price list for further details).

We continue to foster ever-closer links with our colleagues throughout the School of Veterinary Science at The University of Liverpool and in particular with the pathologists at Veterinary Laboratory Services (VLS). Professor Anja Kipar talks about this collaboration on page four. In addition to TEST-A-PET and VLS, the diagnostic services and clinical support available within the School serve to provide diagnostic tests and advice from a multidisciplinary team of vets and scientists to comprehensively meet the needs of our customers. See the School's website for further details.

The University now has a new internal academic and support structure which will present challenges and opportunities, and we envisage that this will result in greater diagnostic integration in future, to the benefit of both clinicians and patients.

So indeed, things do change, but in spite of the inevitable changes that come along, we will always remain focused on quality of service, dedicated to patient care and rooted in academia - this is our on-going commitment to you.

Thank you for your continued custom.

Paul Gilmore BSc (Hons)

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### In this issue...

- Clinical Advice at TEST-A-PET
- IN FOCUS: Tick-borne diseases of dogs and cats
- Veterinary Laboratory Services