

# Veterinary Laboratory Services:

## Expert diagnostic pathology and microbiology services at the School of Veterinary Science

The School of Veterinary Science provides a range of diagnostic services for the University Teaching Hospitals and outside clients that collaborate closely and complement each other. While TEST-A-PET and Diagnosteq offer diagnostic parasitology services, the Veterinary Laboratory Services (VLS) provide diagnostic pathology and microbiology services.

The **Diagnostic Pathology Service** is provided by the group of veterinary pathologists, comprised of qualified, experienced pathologists and closely supervised trainees. The following services are provided:

- 1) Histology and cytology services including immunohistology, dealing with surgical biopsies, fine needle aspirate, joint fluids and exudates. Immunohistology is used for oncological diagnoses and the identification of infectious agents.
- 2) The post mortem service is available for a very wide range of species including zoo and wild animals, reptiles, amphibians and fish.

The **Diagnostic Microbiology Service** (Head: Dr. Dorina Timofte) is offered for tissue specimens, swabs, blood, urine and faeces. In addition, the microbiology team has recently established screening protocols for practices and clinics, that allow the monitoring of the hygiene status of premises. It also offers diagnostic PCRs, for example for mycobacteria. All services of the School of Veterinary Science are linked and in fact serve as a one stop shop for the various tests that might be required from a sample.

The Pathology Group has specific expertise in Forensic Pathology.

A complete work-up of cases does include microbiological and parasitological examinations. In addition, however, entomological examinations are often performed. Based on the experience gained by this approach, Drs. McGarry (TEST-A-PET) and Hetzel (Pathology) have now embarked on a scientific collaboration and are addressing a range of questions relevant for forensic cases, in particular with regard to the determination of the time of death.

For further information on the services provided by Veterinary Laboratory

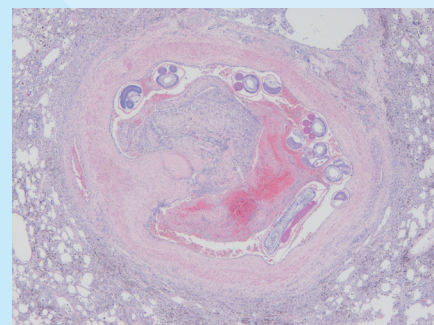


Image courtesy of Dr. Udo Hetzel

Above: **Histological section of canine lung with intravascular adult *Angiostrongylus vasorum*, causing arterial thrombosis.**

Services at the School of Veterinary Science, please check the website at [http://www.liv.ac.uk/vets/diagnostic\\_services.htm](http://www.liv.ac.uk/vets/diagnostic_services.htm) or contact the VLS Office at Tel. 0151 794 4265.

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