NHVDL and NEWDC Working with Wildlife

The Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative (NEWDC) brings together the expertise of veterinarians, scientists, and wildlife managers throughout the Northeastern United States to provide wildlife diagnostics to its participating organizations, including state and federal agencies. The NHVDL has been a participating member of NEWDC since its formation in 2011. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided $50,000 to help launch the cooperative which is administered through the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University under the direction of Dr. Julie Ellis. The NHVDL at the University of New Hampshire, along with the veterinary diagnostic laboratories at the Cummings School, Cornell University.

Director’s Corner

It is hard to believe our Fall issue is already here and that we are in the midst of the holiday season. These past six months have flown by. I hope that everyone is approaching the end of this calendar year with the same sense of optimism we have here at the lab. After several months of planning and hard work, new initiatives have been enacted and the results and feedback have been excellent.

FedEx and UPS courier options are now available and are providing rapid and reliable delivery to the lab. Our specimen mailing supplies were completely revamped and are providing greater flexibility and cost efficiency for our clients.

The new fee schedule went into effect November 1st. There was a modest increase on some tests while other tests remained unchanged. We are confident that our clients will find our pricing and services the best option for their practice and their patients.

The NHVMA held an excellent CE meeting on November 7th with close to 200 veterinarians attending. We were glad to have our vendor booth set up to promote our services and have the opportunity to talk with our clients. We had a lot of free supplies to give out in appreciation of the continued support our lab receives from the veterinary community. We hope that the many new veterinarians we also met will soon become clients too.

We will be hosting an Open House on Wednesday, December 5th. Additional details will be forthcoming on our website. This will be an excellent opportunity to tour the lab, meet the staff, and have conversations with various NHVDL stakeholders and decision makers. At this time of year we would like to express our gratitude for your continued patronage and for all the efforts underway to improve our funding sources. We are especially grateful for the opportunity to continue offering all the services that help to advance the NHVDL’s mission.

Robert Gibson
University and University of Connecticut are participating members which provide their diagnostic services and expertise in wildlife disease diagnosis and investigation.

This collaboration does not replicate or replace federal or state wildlife diagnostic efforts already in place, but instead compliments them by bringing together regional stakeholders and facilitating communications. Monitoring and protecting the health of wildlife has distinct benefits for the health of our domestic animals and public health.

NEWDC is able to provide wildlife agencies and personnel with training and access to disease professionals, diagnostic services and information on important regional disease issues or events. Our own NHVDL pathologists have been active in providing the hands-on training for animal necropsy and collection of specimens needed for the diagnosis of various diseases. Participants in these trainings take back to their agencies the information and training they need to better respond and participate in a disease investigation.

The northeast has a rich and varied habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. With multiple states in the northeast with large population centers and a considerable amount of expertise, this type of collaboration will allow the region’s veterinarians, diagnosticians and wildlife experts to have a centralized structure to share their findings and track the movement of diseases across state lines.

The NHVDL is a full service diagnostic lab which is fortunate to have pathologists with specific experience in wildlife diseases. As a NEWDC member we are pleased to be offering our diagnostic services and expertise.

For more information about NEWDC you can visit their website at:

http://sites.tufts.edu/newdc/

Wild Turkeys in NH

Recent NHVDL and NEWDC collaborations with NH Fish and Game Wildlife Division include a survey of proliferative dermatitis in wild turkeys. Turkeys from around New Hampshire have been found to have nodular skin masses in featherless areas of the head and neck, which were sampled for molecular testing and microscopic examination. These birds were found to be primarily affected by avian poxvirus, but with the assistance of researchers at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS), another viral infection was also discovered, retroviral lymphoproliferative disease virus (LPDV).

Avian poxvirus spread occurs primarily by insect vectors, especially mosquitoes, but direct and indirect contact may also transmit virus. LPDV infection rarely causes disease in turkey, but can occasionally cause formation of lymphoid tumors; although virus was present in these birds, there was no evidence of tumors. The significance to wild turkey populations is not currently clear, and the prevalence and geographic distribution of LPDV in wild galliforms or mechanism(s) of viral transmission are not known. Ongoing research at SCWDS and future collaborations may help determine the significance of these viral infections in our turkey populations.

We’re pleased to report that NHVDL employee, Chelsea Bourassa (UNH class of 2011) recently received her histology technician certification from the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification (BOC). Having met the academic requirements, the experience/training requirements and successfully completing the certification examination, Chelsea is now a certified Histotechnician, HT(ASCP).

These well-deserved credentials are a testament to Chelsea’s hard work, competence and commitment to our laboratory.

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<th>Holiday Hours</th>
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<td>Monday, December 24</td>
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<td>Tuesday, December 25</td>
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<td>Tuesday, January 1, 2013</td>
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Please call us in advance if you have time sensitive testing needs. In spite of the shortened weeks, we plan to process samples and issue reports with minimal delays.

Also note, please contact UPS and FedEx for holiday schedules and delivery dates prior to shipping.
New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

You spoke, we listened!

We are pleased to announce our new courier options with FedEx and UPS

Preaddressed labels for FedEx and UPS are now available at a reduced rate for our clients. These services will bring samples to the lab in a rapid, reliable and trackable manner. This will not only improve our fast turnaround time but will also help to ensure specimen integrity.

We are also improving and expanding our mailer kit and supply options with easier packaging and reduced costs with the flexibility for multiple specimens per package.

Options with the US postal service (USPS) have also been improved and are still available for those who prefer this service.

Electronic reports can now be emailed to the practice, veterinarian or both. Receiving fax as well as final paper copies in the mail is still an option. Arrangements can be made for any combination.

You really can have it all!

We’ve always provided:
- Quality and prompt lab results
- Excellent customer service*
- Low prices
- No gimmicks or hidden fees

Now we’ve added:
- New FedEx & UPS courier options
- New specimen supplies and kits
- Electronic Reporting

Take advantage of these new options today. Additional information is available on the NHVDL website. Please call the lab if you have questions or would like to place an order.

*The 2012 NHVDL Survey: Nearly all NHVDL customers (90%) agree (70% strongly agree and 20% agree) that their overall experience with the NHVDL is positive (number of clients responded: 92)

129 Main Street / Kendall Hall
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH 03824

Phone (603) 862-2726
Fax (603) 862-0179
www.nhvdl.unh.edu