



Knowledge to Go Places

February 12, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter provides information concerning the Quality Assurance Programs utilized by our laboratory related to fulfilling requirements for AAHA certification.

The Clinical Pathology Laboratory in the CSU-James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital provides testing in the following areas: hematology, biochemistry, blood gas analysis, urinalysis, coagulation, cytology, and immunohematology. All equipment is standardized as recommended by the manufacturer, or is modified to meet the requirements of veterinary species.

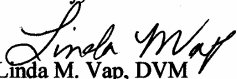
Commercial controls are evaluated on a regular basis for cell counts, biochemistry, blood gas analysis, urinalysis dipsticks and coagulation. The frequency of such evaluation depends on the method being evaluated. For example, several levels of controls are run throughout the day on the cell counters and automated chemistry analyzer. In addition, calibrations and controls are run when a new reagent is put into use, and/or at a frequency recommended by the manufacturer.

We participate in a quarterly proficiency examination (Veterinary Laboratory Association Quality Assurance Program) for peer review of routine and exotic species in hematology, including differentials, and biochemistry. There are also strict guidelines utilized for review of abnormal hematology data by a clinical pathologist on a daily basis. We also take advantage of several peer review programs provided by various control material suppliers for urinalysis, biochemistry, hematology and blood gas analysis.

An important part of quality assurance is feedback from you, the user. Do not hesitate to call should you feel results are inappropriate for the condition of your patient. Obviously, the sooner this occurs after receipt of results, the better. If at all possible, we will be happy to re-analyze the specimen.

Please feel free to call should you have any questions regarding our quality control program, or any other topic.

Sincerely,


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cc: Dr. Mary Anna Thrall, Section Chief