

# NATIONWIDE LABORATORIES AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

WHAT IF IT'S NOT JUST OLD AGE?

## AGING PET DIAGNOSTICS RESOURCE

The **Ageing Pet Diagnostics Resource** offers tools to help veterinary teams manage age-related conditions and communicate with pet owners

[DISCOVER RESOURCE →](#)

BSAVA PetSavers and NationWide Laboratories launch exclusive partnership for the **Ageing Canine Toolkit (ACT)**

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Clinical Pathology in Cats and Dogs – **Why Species, Breed and Age Matter**

by Alina Bodnariu, DVM MSc PhD  
FRCPath MRCVS, Helen Campbell  
BVM&S FRCPath MRCVS

[FREE WEBINAR →](#)

**Ageing dogs** often present with complex, overlapping conditions that require a structured diagnostic approach

[HAPPY HEALTHY DOG →](#)

Cats are masters at masking illness, making proactive screening essential in senior **feline care**

[HAPPY HEALTHY CAT →](#)

Disease, diagnostics and the care of **senior pets**

[READ MORE →](#)

Canine and feline **geriatric profiling**: how can it help?

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## Message from David Charvill

Dear friends,

As our pets live longer, the need for thoughtful, proactive senior care has never been greater. This issue of the newsletter highlights the growing importance of age-related diagnostics, from tailored geriatric profiles to the launch of the Ageing Pet Diagnostics Resource and our partnership with BSAVA PetSavers. These tools are designed to help veterinary teams detect conditions earlier, guide treatment decisions, and support meaningful conversations with pet owners.

But our commitment doesn't stop at senior care. Across all life stages and species, NationWide Laboratories continues to invest in diagnostic excellence. As part of the **NVS Group - the UK's leader in veterinary wholesale, logistics, consumables, software, and laboratory services**, we offer practices streamlined access to a full suite of essential services through one trusted provider, helping veterinary teams run efficiently with confidence and clarity.

Whatever your case, we're proud to be part of your journey.

David Charvill,  
Director of Laboratory Services



# Helping Older Pets Live Healthier, Happier Lives

As pets live longer and more owners seek clarity around senior care, the **Ageing Pet Diagnostics Resource** offers veterinary teams a practical, centralised hub to support proactive, compassionate care for older animals. With senior pets now making up 30-40% of patients in general practice, and many pandemic-era pets approaching their golden years, demand for age-related diagnostics is rising. At the same time, economic pressures and evolving expectations around transparency mean pet owners increasingly value clear, supportive guidance.

Developed in response to these needs and informed by **BSAVA PetSavers** research the resource equips practices with tools to guide clinical decision-making, streamline consultations, and help owners understand when and how veterinary support can make a difference. Backed by a **comprehensive suite of diagnostics**, including senior health checks and geriatric profiles, it empowers earlier detection and more confident management of conditions like diabetes, kidney disease, and cancer.

By helping teams run effective senior screening clinics and build stronger client relationships, the resource **adds real value to everyday practice**.

## Holistic Approach to Ageing Pet Care

The **Ageing Pet Diagnostics Resource** is a comprehensive framework for supporting ageing pets through every stage of their senior years.

It includes:

- **Tailored diagnostic panels** for senior and geriatric dogs and cats
- **Client communication tools**, including the **BSAVA PetSavers Ageing Canine Toolkit (ACT)** and Happy Healthy Dog and Cat e-leaflets
- **Educational content** for veterinary teams

This resource is designed to support and simplify the delivery of preventive care, **helping veterinary teams** detect age-related conditions earlier and tailor treatment plans more effectively.

## BSAVA PetSavers Ageing Canine Toolkit (ACT)

Effective **communication with pet owners** is crucial alongside clinical care. The ACT provides practical tools to help owners recognise early signs of ageing and seek veterinary advice promptly. As a key element of the overall resource, the toolkit includes:

- A **traffic light checklist** for owners to complete at home
- A **leaflet** explaining common signs of ageing and when to seek veterinary advice
- A waiting room **poster** with a QR code linking to the digital toolkit

This tool helps owners recognise subtle changes in their dog's health and behaviour, making them more likely to **seek veterinary advice** early when intervention can be most effective.



Download ACT



## GERIATRIC PET PROFILES

Comprehensive testing is recommended for senior dogs and cats, due to the higher risk of underlying disease. There are four main categories of wellness testing for senior pets: **complete blood count, biochemistry profile, urinalysis, and thyroid hormone testing**. Our canine and feline geriatric profiles include a chemistry panel to **evaluate kidney and liver function, antibody and protein levels, blood sugar, cholesterol, electrolytes and more**.

### SENIOR DOGS

Ageing dogs often present with complex, overlapping conditions that require a structured diagnostic approach. Our **Canine Senior Health Check Plus T4** and **Canine Geriatric Profile** are designed to support early detection and ongoing monitoring of age-related changes.

These profiles assess:

- Liver and kidney status (ALT, ALP, GGT, SDMA, creatinine, urea)
- Electrolyte balance (sodium, potassium, chloride, Na:K ratio)
- Metabolic health (glucose, cholesterol)
- Endocrine status (total T4)
- Haematology and urinalysis

Routine **canine wellness testing** helps establish baselines and track trends over time, allowing you to intervene before clinical signs progress.

### SENIOR CATS

Cats are masters at masking illness, making proactive screening essential in senior care. Our **Feline Senior Health Check** and **Feline Geriatric Profile Plus** are designed to uncover early signs of disease through a comprehensive panel that includes:

- Kidney status (SDMA, urea, creatinine)
- Liver enzymes (ALT, ALP, GGT)
- Electrolytes (sodium, potassium, chloride, Na:K ratio)
- Metabolic markers (glucose, cholesterol)
- Endocrine screening (total T4)
- Haematology and urinalysis

Feline wellness testing is a cornerstone of preventative care, helping you detect subtle shifts in health status before they become clinically significant. With expert interpretation from our veterinary pathologists, you can confidently tailor treatment plans and improve outcomes for your **ageing feline patients**.

For more information, email us at [info@nwlabs.co.uk](mailto:info@nwlabs.co.uk) or call 01253 899215.



# Salivary Gland Lipomatosis in an 8-year-old Female Jackapoo



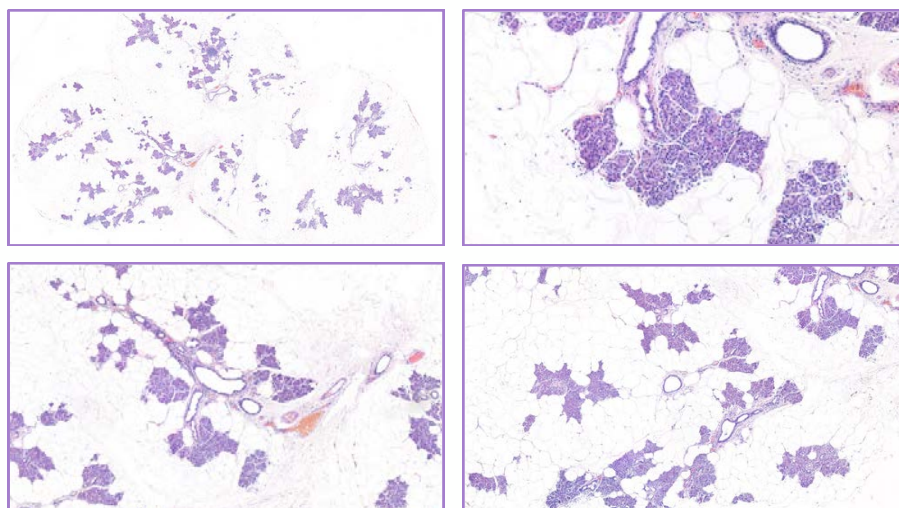
**Author: Karina Fresneda DVM DiplACVP**

This is a case of an 8-year-old female Jackapoo dog that presented with an enlarged, multilobular salivary gland. The submitted samples consisted of multiple lobulated pieces of adipose tissue. Histologically, the tissue showed a multilobulated proliferation of mature adipocytes without evidence of atypia. The adipocytes infiltrated and expanded the salivary gland lobules, extending between the acini and ducts. No significant inflammation or neoplastic cells were observed. These findings are consistent with a diagnosis of salivary gland lipomatosis.

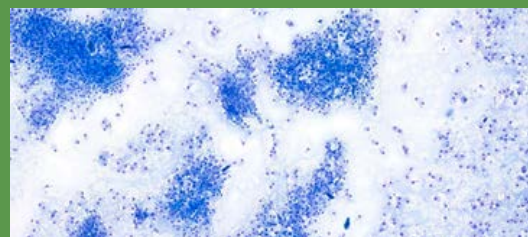
Salivary gland lipomatosis is a rare, non-neoplastic condition in dogs characterised by diffuse infiltration of mature adipose tissue into the salivary glands. This process results in slow-growing, unilateral, and non-painful glandular enlargement, most commonly affecting the mandibular and parotid glands.

The cause of this condition remains unclear, and only a limited number of cases have been documented in veterinary literature. Histologically, salivary gland lipomatosis is characterized by the presence of adipose tissue interspersed with normal salivary gland cells. This feature distinguishes it from sialolipomas, which are encapsulated nodular lesions. Other differential diagnoses include pleomorphic adenoma, lipoma, and salivary gland atrophy. Unlike neoplastic growths, lipomatosis lesions may exhibit a thin capsule but lack discrete masses. The condition is typically diagnosed via histopathology and treated by surgical excision of the affected gland.

Prognosis is favourable if surgery is complete, though microscopic infiltration may cause recurrence. Due to its rarity, further studies are needed to better understand its pathogenesis and biological behaviour.

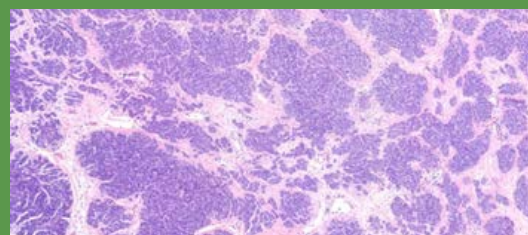


## CANINE CASE STUDIES



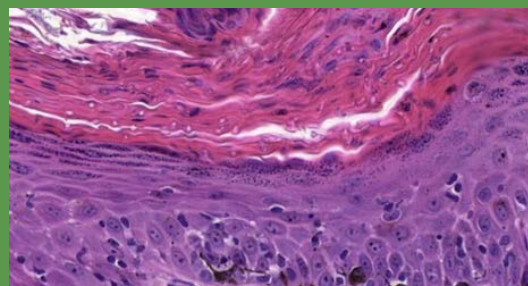
A 10-year-old intact male Staffordshire Bull Terrier was presented to the veterinary clinic with a history of an enlarged popliteal lymph node on the right hind limb.

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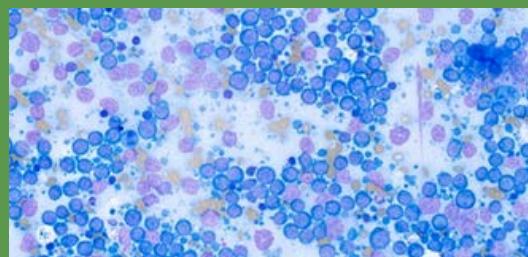
A 7-year-old male neutered Labrador presented with a 2 cm raised firm mass present at the base of the right ear. It appeared not to be attached underneath and was quite mobile.

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A 10-year-old neutered male Jack Russell Terrier was presented to a veterinary clinic with a history of an ulcerative skin lesion on the nasal skin.

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An 8-year-old entire male border collie was presented with enlarged peripheral lymph nodes. FNAs from the left submandibular, right prescapular and right popliteal lymph nodes were sent for cytological examination.

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# Cystitis Glandularis in a 13-year-old female cat

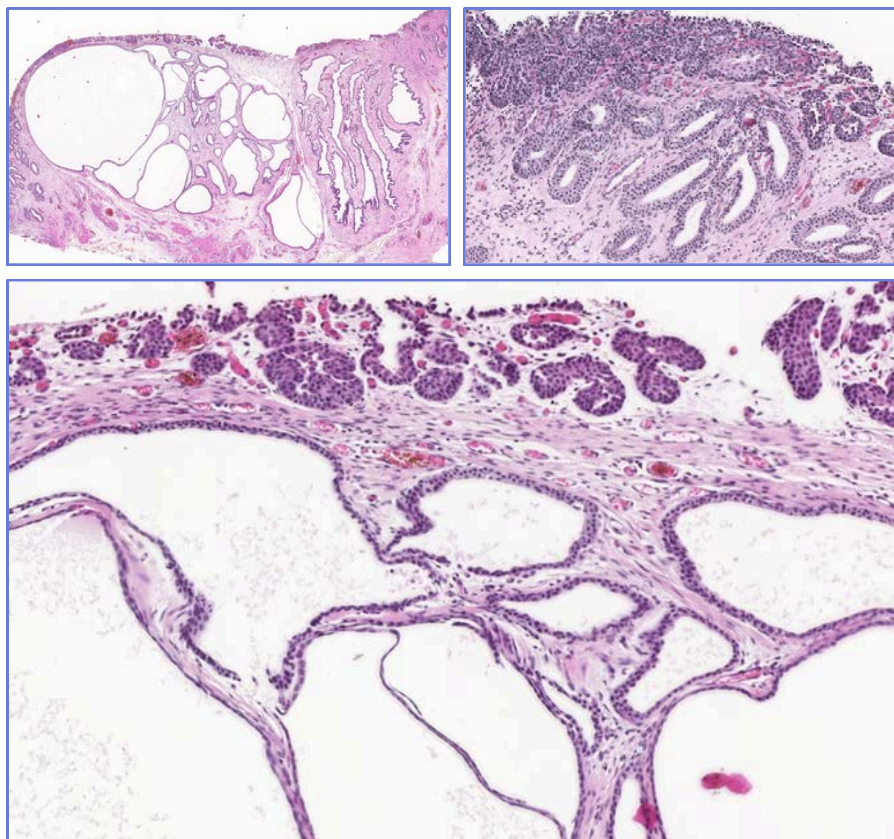
Author: Karina Fresneda DVM DiplACVP



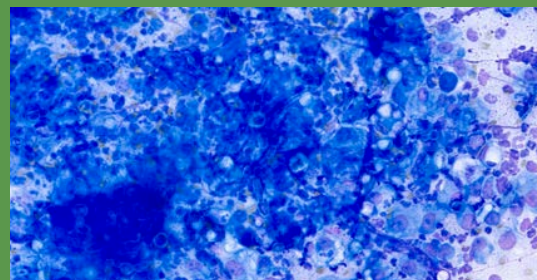
Cystitis is a clinically significant disease that affects various species, with a higher incidence in females, likely linked to their shorter urethra. This condition can manifest as either acute or chronic. Chronic cystitis takes on diverse forms based on the pattern and type of inflammatory response, including diffuse, follicular, and polypoid variants.

Chronic polypoid cystitis is characterized by the presence of polypoid masses, particularly common in dogs but may occur in any species. These masses likely develop as an inflammatory and hyperplastic response to chronic irritation, often stemming from persistent bacterial urinary tract infections (UTIs) and/or uroliths. The polyps found in the bladder mucosa consist of a core of proliferative connective tissue covered by surface epithelium. This surface epithelium can form nests of hyperplastic urothelial cells in the lamina propria, known as Brunn's nests, or undergo metaplasia to a mucus-secreting, glandular epithelial type, leading to a condition called CYSTITIS GLANDULARIS. These resulting polypoid masses may have a broad-based or pedunculated structure, occurring most frequently in the cranioventral bladder wall. Chronic haematuria, often unresponsive to antimicrobial therapy, is a common observation in cases of chronic polypoid cystitis. This bleeding is often associated with the breakdown of polyps, potentially promoting urine retention and bacterial introduction, thus establishing a cyclic pattern of infection, proliferation, and inflammation.

Histologically, our case had in lamina propria, occasionally extending from mucosa, multiple hyperplastic tortuous glands that were often cystic dilated. They were lined by one to multiple layers of uniform cuboidal or columnar epithelial cells, occasionally surrounded by a few layers of urothelial cells. They had no evident atypia. The lamina propria where they were immersed contained a few plasma cells, lymphocytes, neutrophils and rare histiocytes.

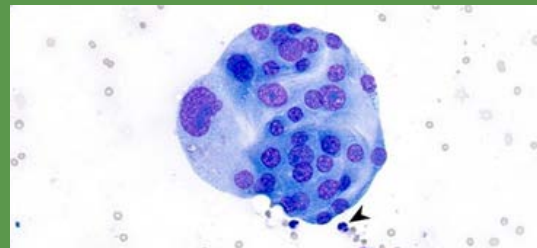


## FELINE CASE STUDIES



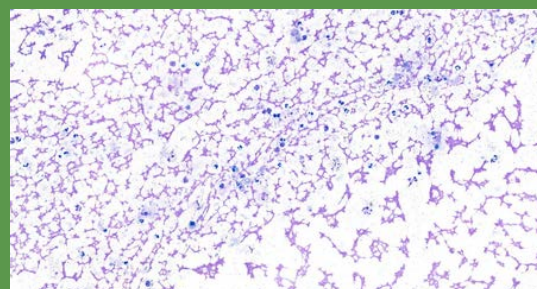
A 10-year-old domestic shorthair male cat presented with a recurrent nasal mass, which was initially excised surgically.

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An entire female 12-year-old domestic shorthair cat was presented to the veterinary clinic, where clinical evaluation diagnosed an abdominal mass, suspected of pancreatic origin and the evidence of abundant peritoneal fluid.

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A 13-year-old spayed female domestic shorthair cat was presented to a veterinary clinic with a history of a large mass, approximately 8 - 10 cm in size, with an irregular texture.

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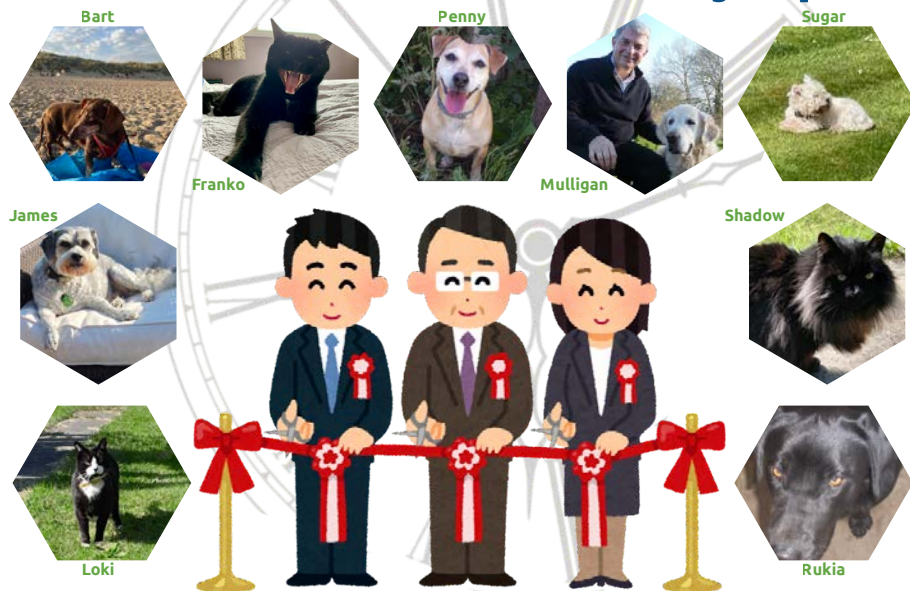


We received a skin and subcutaneous tissue sample from the caudoventral abdomen of an 8-year-old domestic short hair cat.

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# Oldie Paws Club is Officially Open



Today's a good day to officially open the **Oldie Paws Club**!

At NationWide Laboratories, we believe every pet deserves love, dignity, and excellent care in their golden years. Senior pets hold a special place in our hearts and in our homes, and we know that behind every sample lies a story of care, consideration, and the unconditional love only pets can give.

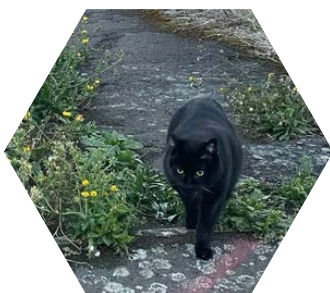
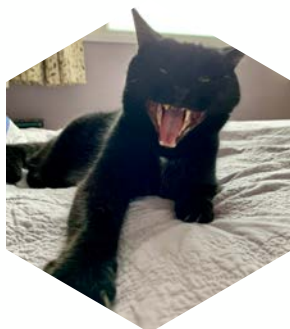
We've spoken to our team and wider vet community about how they support their older pets. Over the coming weeks, we'll be sharing their stories on [LinkedIn](#), each one personal and unique. Expect a few special, unexpected guests too! Meanwhile, here is a little **teaser**...

## Franko: true story

Meet Oldie Paws Club Member **Franko**. His human, Jenny, shares how despite his respectable age Franko still runs the household with charm, mischief, and a firm grip on the sofa.

"Meet Franko – intrepid **explorer**, gourmet extraordinaire and soppiest lap cat. For the last 15 years he's been organising our household to ensure regular meal and bedtimes for all. He also provided social services for the neighbourhood, monitoring the food of passing toddlers and visiting the school to check children were being properly fed. His dedication even extended to ensuring the kebab van's food was up to scratch. A keen **wildlife collector**, he regularly delighted us with surprise gifts of live grass snakes, bats and a woodpecker proudly released into the house.

A distinguished elderly gentleman, Franko is now **deaf** and has **osteoarthritis**, but with lots of love to give, he prefers to pin visitors down on the sofa, purr them into submission and snuggle up with anyone caught napping. On a strict diet, he's adept at conning extra meals from distracted family members, but comes out for an evening walk to **keep his joints gently moving**. Staying one step ahead is a constant battle of wits with this worldly-wise character!"



## ONLINE CUSTOMER PORTAL

Our online customer portal is designed to streamline the sample submission, tracking and result reporting process. It aligns with our commitment to delivering a greener pawprint by offering you this alternative to a paper-based system. This platform is set to give you another additional way to interact with us, offering a faster and more convenient means of managing sample submissions, tracking their progress and obtaining results. It is a software interface that gives you complete visibility into your interactions with our laboratories. **To start using the platform please contact us at [info@nwlabs.co.uk](mailto:info@nwlabs.co.uk)**

## SUBMISSION FORM

To help us deliver your results as efficiently as possible, please take a moment to ensure your submission form is complete and accurate. **This includes double-checking the practice code, test code, species, and relevant history for each sample.**

If the **animal is imported**, please clearly mark it on the form and note it in the history section, specifying the origin, zoonosis risks, and any travel history.

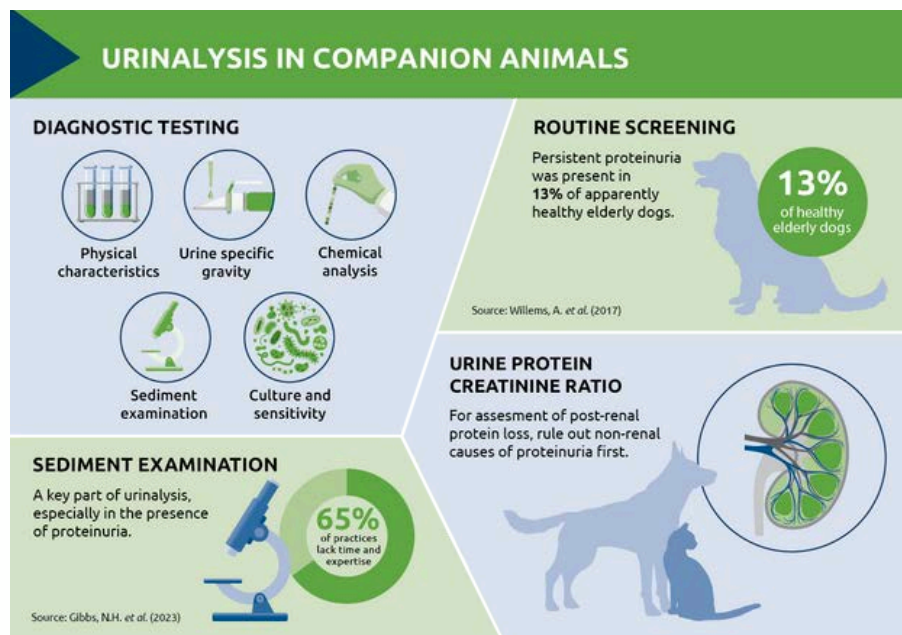
For **histology submissions**, also include the number of containers and tissues, as this ensures accurate processing.

By paying attention to these details, you help us provide you with the best possible service. **If you have any questions, please get in touch with our team at 01253 899215, we will be happy to assist.**

## JOIN US AT THE LONDON VET SHOW 2025: STAND J50!

We're proud to be part of the NVS Group stand (J50) at this year's London Vet Show! Come and meet our team to explore how our diagnostic services, expert support, and customer-first approach can help you **achieve your diagnostic and therapeutic objectives**. Whether you're an established practice or just starting out and building your clinical offering, we're here to support you every step of the way. Let's talk about how we can help you deliver the best possible care to your patients and clients.

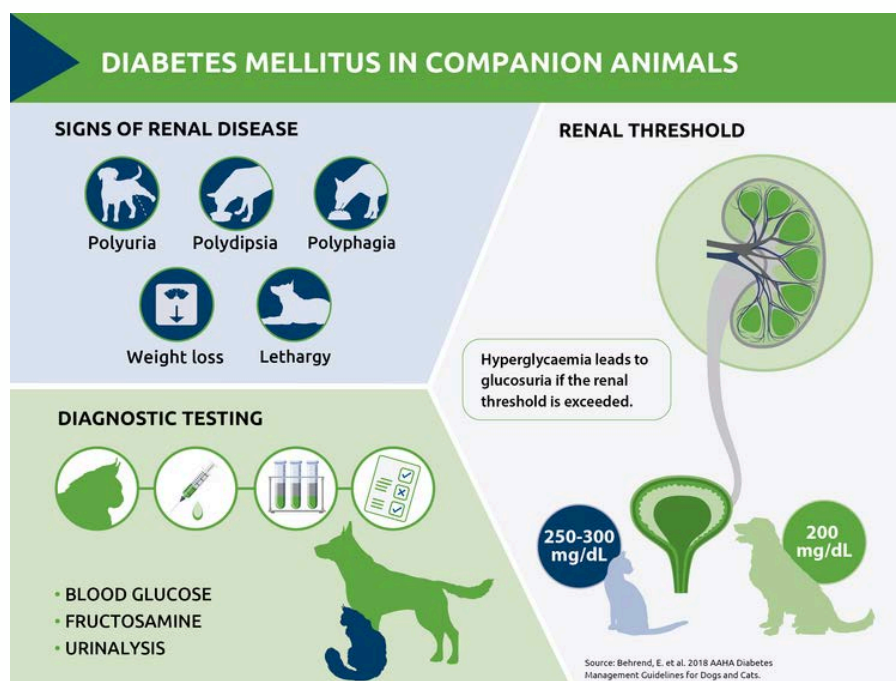
# Maximising diagnostic potential: a guide to urinalysis and urine cytology in companion animals



Urinalysis is a simple yet powerful tool, especially in geriatric care. It helps detect early signs of kidney dysfunction, proteinuria, and hypertension - conditions that are more prevalent in aging pets. The article outlines best practices for sample collection and interpretation.

[Click to read full article](#)

## Decoding diabetes mellitus in dogs and cats



Diabetes is a common endocrine disorder in older pets. This article explains how to distinguish it from other age-related changes, with species-specific insights. Early diagnosis and treatment are critical to prevent complications and improve quality of life.

[Click to read full article](#)

## BESPOKE PROFILES

We offer a wide range of diagnostic tests and profiles, but we know one size doesn't always fit all. If you're unsure which panel is right for your case, or need a specific assay that isn't listed, our expert team is here to help. We can create a bespoke profile tailored to your clinical requirements, ensuring you get the most relevant and effective diagnostics for your patients.

## HOW CLEAN IS YOUR PRACTICE?

We offer you a microbiological screening programme to screen your facilities and equipment. Swabs are supplied with simple instructions and a postage paid envelope for return to our laboratory for testing. We test for aerobic and anaerobic cultures as well as specific cultures for yeast and fungi. This comprehensive testing includes (but is not limited to) cultures for the following major groups of organisms: *Enterobacteriaceae*, *Enterococci*, *Streptococci*, *Pseudomonadaceae*, *Staphylococci* (Meticillin resistant/ sensitive) as well as spore forming bacteria such as *Bacillus* and *Clostridium spp.*

## HYDROTHERAPY POOL WATER TESTING

We all know that hydrotherapy in conjunction with veterinary treatment can assist in improving the rate of recovery and healing of animals after injury or surgery. At NationWide Laboratories we can assist you in demonstrating to your clients that your facility meets the guidelines for water safety and quality through our hydro pool testing service, which meets the requirements of hydrotherapy associations such as CHA and NARCH.

We will provide you with the sample bottle, guidance on how to take the sample and prepaid postage to get the sample to us. You will receive a report of printed enumerated results for total viable count at 37 degrees itemising *total coliforms*, *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and guidance for interpretation.

For more information, email us at [info@nwlabs.co.uk](mailto:info@nwlabs.co.uk) or call 01253 899215.



# NEW FREE WEBINAR: Histo-Cyto Correlates: A Crucial Quality Control Measure



Cytology and histology are powerful diagnostic tools, but what happens when they don't agree? In this **upcoming** case-based webinar, **Sandra Dawson BSc BVMS FRCPath MRCVS** explores the challenges and value of correlating cytology with histology. While anatomic pathologists often benefit from the "bigger picture" provided by histology, discrepancies between reports can raise more questions than answers. This session will unpack how both reports contribute to diagnosis and prognosis, what to do when they conflict, and how correlation can be used as a vital quality control measure for both clinicians and pathologists.

**Live: Tuesday, 7th  
October at 12:30 BST**

[Click to register FREE](#)



## Why AMH Alone Isn't Always Enough

### Hormone Testing for Gonadal Remnants in Pets



Some vets rely solely on AMH to detect ovarian or testicular remnants...



While AMH alone is fine for neutered males, small remnants may suppress AMH or not produce it at all in spayed females

**A**

AMH indicates gonadal tissue, but can be suppressed or absent

**P**

Progesterone suggests luteal activity, especially post-ovulation

**E**

E2 is usually elevated in spayed females showing signs of oestrous

### RECOMMENDED PROTOCOL

- ✓ Measure AMH
- ✓ Measure Progesterone
- ✓ Measure E2

To ensure diagnostic accuracy in spayed females, it is recommended to measure all three hormones. A full hormone panel provides a clearer picture when ovarian remnants are suspected



Delivering excellence in animal health

## CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR HISTOPATHOLOGY

We provide **diagnostic veterinary histopathology services** to veterinary practitioners and universities throughout the UK and worldwide. Our interest does not stop at the point of diagnosis, and we are involved in research in veterinary medicine. We have contributed to publications based upon both the samples that our clients send us and also in collaboration with other veterinary centres and universities.

### SAME DAY PTH

NationWide Specialist Laboratories is offering a SAME DAY service for the analysis of canine, feline and equine parathyroid hormone (PTH). Parathyroid hormone-related protein (or PTHrP) is assayed once a week on Wednesday with results available on Thursday. If you want our RAPID PTH service as well as PTHrP, please submit 2 separate frozen EDTA Plasma samples. PTHrP will continue to be analysed once a week.

### ANALYSIS OF ERYTHROPOETIN (EPO)

EPO plays a key role in the regulation of red cell mass and erythrocyte production. EPO may be used to aid the differential diagnosis of polycythemia and non-regenerative anaemia. Raised levels of EPO occur in secondary polycythemias and renal tumours. Low/normal levels may occur in renal failure and polycythemia vera. Sample requirement is 0.5mL separated serum.

### SAME DAY SDMA

NationWide Specialist Laboratories offers SDMA assay with results available the same day. This assay has been validated against Liquid Chromatography – Mass Spectrometry method which is the Gold standard. This is an immuno-turbidimetric assay and has been validated for dogs, cats and horses. Li-hep plasma or serum are suitable samples for this assay.

For more information, email us at [info@nwlab.co.uk](mailto:info@nwlab.co.uk) or call 01253 899215.



**NationWide**  
LABORATORIES

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