Canine Leptospirosis Testing

Our Services
Our laboratory offers unparalleled service and experience in testing for the diagnosis of canine leptospirosis. We conduct over 80,000 serologic assays for leptospirosis annually. We participate in International Proficiency Testing to assure quality results and will provide letters for export testing upon request.

Why the MSU VDL is the Best Choice for Lepto Samples
1. The MSU VDL provides one-day turnaround for leptospirosis titers 5 days a week. We do not charge a STAT fee—just give us a call and let us know to look for the sample and we will do everything we can to get the titers run the day the sample arrives. Our prepaid UPS mailers are the way to go! We know that you are anxious for the results and so are the owners. If the results are indicative of infection, we will call you.
2. Our testing includes antibody titers against the following 6 leptospiral serovars: Bratislava, Canicola, Grippotyphosa, Hardjo, Icterohaemorrhagiae, and Pomona. Titers against serovar Autumnalis are available in our expanded panel (test code 95066) or as an add-on (test code 95054) by request.
3. Our Bacteriology laboratory has extensive experience in the diagnosis of leptospirosis and interprets each set of titers. An interpretation is included in each report at no extra charge. Additional consultation is also available.
4. We also test for the presence of Leptospira in urine and/or blood by PCR. Leptospiras may not be present in urine until 5 to 7 days after infected dogs become ill, as Leptospira will be present in blood only during the initial bacteremic/fever phase of the disease. Prior treatment with antibiotics will negatively affect detection in urine. Collect urine prior to the start of antibiotic therapy if leptospirosis is suspected. Postmortem testing on tissue samples may also be performed by PCR.

What Sample Should Be Submitted
For serology testing, serum (0.5 to 1 mL) should be submitted along with a clinical and vaccination history. If testing is for vaccine screening, please indicate the date of the last vaccination, if known. For PCR, submit 5-10 mL of urine, 3-5 mL of whole blood, or 1 g of tissue (kidney, liver, or placenta).

For more information, including assistance with test method selection, please contact the Bacteriology lab at 517.353.1683 or visit our website. In addition, a one-page guide for owners (Leptospirosis: What Every Dog Owner Should Know) is available online at animalhealth.msu.edu under Client Education.

Sample Submission Forms
Visit our website at animalhealth.msu.edu to access our most current submittal forms. Customized forms preprinted with your clinic information are also available at no cost via the Product Order Form.

Unbeatable Shipping
The MSU VDL offers a variety of shipping options. Our mailers comply with U.S. Postal Service, UPS, and FedEx regulations. All UPS mailers include prepaid overnight weekday delivery. All U.S. Postal Service mailers include prepaid delivery; delivery time will vary depending on your location.

Order Mailing Supplies
Standard, insulated, and biopsy mailers are available. Contact us at 517.353.1683 or complete the Product Order Form available online at animalhealth.msu.edu. You can also place an order by completing the SUPPLIES section on a submittal form.

Packaging and Mailing Samples
For shipping recommendations for individual tests, please refer to the information provided at animalhealth.msu.edu under “Available Tests.”

Speak Directly to Experts
Our veterinary professionals are available for consultation and can help you interpret your test results to better manage the health of animals entrusted to you.

Get Results by Email and Online
Had it with the fax machine? Contact us at 517.353.1683 to have results delivered by email.

All MSU VDL clients also have free, quick access to view results online through WebView. Reports are posted to the web hourly. Visit animalhealth.msu.edu and click “Log In” to request access to your diagnostic results.

Expect Quality in Testing and Service
The MSU VDL is a leader in establishing technical guidelines for public veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the United States and maintains a quality assurance team dedicated to promoting accuracy and reliability.
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Customer Service Hours
Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST

Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
4125 Beaumont Road, Lansing, MI 48910
PH: 517.353.1683 | FX: 517.353.5096 | animalhealth.msu.edu