Leptospirosis Testing at DCPAH

Dogs
We routinely test dogs for leptospirosis by serology and perform the test daily, Monday through Friday. 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. A professional interpretation is provided for each sample. It is of assistance in interpreting the titers if you indicate whether the dog is ill (i.e., the testing is for clinical purposes) or if the testing is being done as part of a vaccine screen to determine whether the dog needs to be given a booster dose of leptovaccine. Also provide a leptospiral vaccination history if it is available. If this information is provided, the interpretation will reflect these different testing scenarios. We can also test for the presence of *Leptospira* in dog urine and/or blood using a PCR test. However, leptospires may not be present in the urine of infected dogs until about 5 to 7 days after they 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 the chances of finding leptospires in urine using any method. **Therefore, it is very important to collect urine prior to the start of antibiotic therapy if leptospirosis is suspected.** Postmortem testing may also be performed on tissues samples (liver, kidney, and placenta) by PCR.

Cattle
We routinely test cattle for leptospirosis by serology and by PCR for urine and tissue samples. Serology is run daily, Monday through Friday. Urine samples are accepted Monday through Saturday and results are available within 2 to 5 days. Serology testing includes antibody titers against the following 6 leptospiral serovars: Bratislava, Canicola, Grippotyphosa, Hardjo, Icterohaemorrhagiae, and Pomona. A professional interpretation is provided for each sample. Please note that the antigen we use for serovar Hardjo will detect antibodies against both Hardjoprajitno and Hardjo-bovis. Herd screening for leptospirosis is best accomplished by screening urine samples for organisms and then using serology to help indicate the infecting serovar of *Leptospira*. A detailed instruction sheet for the collection and submission of these samples is provided on the DCPAH CD or website (*Collection of Bovine Urine for Diagnosis of Leptospirosis*).

Horses and other species
We routinely test animals for leptospirosis by serology and perform the test daily, Monday through Friday. Our testing includes antibody titers against the following 6 leptospiral serovars: Bratislava, Canicola, Grippotyphosa, Hardjo, Icterohaemorrhagiae, and Pomona. Titers against serovar Autumnalis are also available by special request. A professional interpretation is provided for each sample. It is of assistance in interpreting the titers if you indicate whether the animal is ill. We can also test for the presence of *Leptospira* in urine or tissues using a PCR test. However, leptospires may not be present in the urine of infected animals until about 5 to 7 days after they become ill, and prior treatment with antibiotics will negatively affect the chances of finding leptospires in urine using any method. Therefore, it is very important to collect urine prior to the start of antibiotic therapy if leptospirosis is suspected.