

Vetnostics Newsletter

June 2018



New Price List Now Available!

Please see attached or contact us at vetnostics@qml.com.au for a copy of our current pricelist **effective July 16th 2018**



The price list format includes; a tabulated representation of the tests included in our frequently requested profiles; lists of the more commonly requested tests under section headings; and a comprehensive, itemised list of tests and panel codes. These codes will assist you when speaking with our staff about tests, and can be used as an alternative to writing the test name on request forms.

QML Pathology Vetnostics remains extremely cost competitive compared with other laboratories. If you have any queries, please contact Vetnostics on email vetnostics@qml.com.au or phone 1300 838 765 (1300 VET QML).

Requesting tests that are not listed on our request form: These tests need to be requested in the space under OTHER TESTS and NOT as part of the clinical history, to avoid test requests being delayed or omitted.

GGT is no longer included within the non-interpreted canine profile

After careful consideration, QML Vetnostics has now removed GGT from the non-interpreted canine profile (effective immediately). GGT will remain in the interpreted canine profiles.

Serum GGT analysis is used mainly as a sensitive indicator of cholestasis and GGT activity tends to parallel ALP activity, thus the interpretation of GGT results is **similar to ALP**.

In dogs, GGT offers no diagnostic advantage over ALP and our experience over many years is that GGT is often inaccurate and falsely elevated purely as a result of haemolysis interference (even with mild haemolysis) and we are aware of multiple occasions where this has then lead to additional unnecessary testing for hepatobiliary disease (e.g. bile acids assay, abdominal ultrasound, liver cytology).

For interpreted profiles the pathologist can still assess any GGT elevation in context with provided clinical history, clinical signs and sample haemolysis (if any). However, for non-interpreted profiles that opportunity does not exist.

In an effort to avoid unnecessary procedures being performed on animals (and associated additional unnecessary costs to animal owners) as a result of falsely elevated GGT results, we have decided to no longer include GGT in the non-interpreted canine profile.

Refer to the information within our March 2017 newsletter for information regarding serum interferences and how they may affect biochemistry results. This is particularly important when assessing results within non-interpreted profiles. http://www.vetqml.com.au/Portals/0/PDF/Newsletters/Vet_NL_Mar17.pdf

Test Protocols are Available on our Website

Information pertaining to test protocols as well as specific specimen handling/submission requirements are now available on our website (vetqml.com.au). This information is located under Products and Services and the News and Events homepage menus. This includes information relating to dynamic endocrine tests (including ACTH Stimulation and Low Dose Dexamethasone Suppression tests) as well as those tests requiring specific collection and handling techniques (eg: Ionised Calcium, Endogenous ACTH).

Observe Caution If Using Compounded ACTH For Stimulation Tests

Our laboratory has recently seen several canine ACTH stimulation tests where compounded ACTH has been used, resulting in negligible increases in post-stimulation serum cortisol concentration. Repeat ACTH stimulation testing in these dogs using aqueous Synacthen® subsequently demonstrated marked elevation in post-stimulation cortisol concentration consistent with Cushing's disease as was suspected clinically in each instance.

Caution should be exercised regarding the use of compounded ACTH for ACTH stimulation tests (for diagnosis of Cushing's/Addison's disease or for monitoring treatment of Cushing's disease).

This further highlights the importance of interpreting **ALL** results in light of clinical suspicions and context. If results appear to be discordant with clinical signs and suspicions, then case/result discussion with one of our veterinary pathologists or internal medical consultants would always be advised.

Pathologist interpretation of endocrine tests (incl. ACTH stimulation) will typically only be offered if clinical information is provided on the request form.

MedWay Real-Time Results... Anytime, Anywhere

MedWay, QML Pathology's web-based application, provides you with real-time access as soon as results are available at the laboratory.

Medway enables you to view your clients' results quickly, efficiently and securely over the Internet. With no paper to handle, instantaneous delivery and secure access, MedWay ensures your clients' results are available real-time, anywhere, on time, all the time. [To register, visit www.medway.com.au](http://www.medway.com.au)

Visit Our Website: vetqml.com.au

The website is an excellent source of information regarding;

- tests and profiles offered
- contact details
- test protocols
- supply/stores requisition forms,
- previous newsletters and much more.

Please take some time to browse the website. We would welcome any feedback regarding additional content you would like to have added.



Reduced pricing for Equine Serum Amyloid A (SAA)

\$20.00 ex.GST