

January 2009

New Year News!



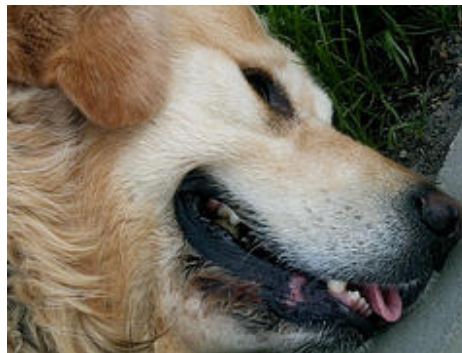
The two new NWL 2009 price brochures will be with you very soon. Much care has been put into the new brochures ensuring that we continue to offer a cost effective, quality assured, user-friendly service. A decision was made to continue producing a separate brochure for our comprehensive range of farm animal tests, including the Advance Cattle Health Scheme, for ease of use.

Please note our price lists were sent to print prior to the announcement of a reduction in VAT rate, so the prices quoted inclusive of VAT are incorrect—we sincerely apologise. VAT exclusive prices are of course quoted for all tests.

Two new members of staff have recently joined the NWL family. Mark Davies has taken over as Commercial Manager and Carol Ann Thompson as Territory Manager for the North East region. Both are very much looking forward to getting to know our practice clients.

High Fructosamine in a Normoglycaemic Dog

Fructosamine is a glycosylated plasma protein that reflects the average serum glucose concentration over the previous one to two weeks in the dog and one to three weeks in the cat. High levels are associated with a persistent hyperglycaemia. Measurement of fructosamine levels in blood from diabetic dogs and cats is a useful tool in determining stability on insulin therapy. A fructosamine assay is also useful to distinguish between transient stress induced hyperglycaemia and diabetes mellitus in cats.



Some time ago we tested blood samples from a six year old neutered Retriever bitch, with a clinical history strongly suggestive of hypothyroidism. T4 was low and cholesterol markedly raised in line with the clinical findings and further thyroid function tests were advised. Blood glucose was well within normal limits at 4.0 mmol/l (Ref. Interval 3.5—5.5 mmol/l), however it was noted that fructosamine was increased at 365 umol/l

(Ref. Interval 141—325 umol/l). A Swiss study found that nine out of eleven untreated, hypothyroid, normoglycaemic dogs had raised fructosamine levels and it was suggested that decelerated turnover of proteins, independent of blood glucose concentration, was likely to be the cause. Changes in levels of total protein and albumin will affect fructosamine and should be taken into consideration when monitoring results for diabetic patients.

Emergency Vaccines

NWL Leeds remains licensed by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate to manufacture emergency vaccines. The most commonly requested bacterial vaccines are for *Campylobacter fetus* in cattle, *Actinobacillus pleuropneumonia* in pigs and *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis* in exotic and avian species. Viral papilloma vaccine for warty cattle is also a speciality! For further details, please contact the Leeds laboratory on 0113 250 7556.

NWL Clin Path Club

The next North West region meeting will be at 8.00 pm on 26 Jan 09, at our new meeting venue, The Tickled Trout, Preston, just off the M6. **Simon Swift will speak on Radiography.** For more information, please contact Kate Simister at NWL Poulton on 01253 881035.