

# THE VETERINARY PATHOLOGY REPORT

Australian Society for Veterinary Pathology  
P.O. Box 483, Bairnsdale, Vic. 3875

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## SPECIAL CONFERENCE ISSUE

All details of the 1985 annual conference in May can be found in this issue.

### Also in this Issue.

Details of the demise of veterinary laboratories in Victoria.

News about Australian College of Veterinary Scientist Pathology Exams.

A nasty notice for those who haven't paid their membership dues.

Lots of information from each of the States. Particular thanks are due to State representatives for providing plenty of news. As a result, this issue is a little late, due to the amount of typing etc. required. Any inconvenience is regretted.

## VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO CLOSE

The Director-General of Agriculture recently announced that the V.R.I, at Parkville is to close. Its activities will be absorbed by other metropolitan departmental units, principally the Attwood Veterinary Research Institute. Many reasons for the closure have been suggested, but the central issue is the stated departmental policy of phasing down animal health research. No doubt many veterinary pathologists in Australia and abroad will be surprised and saddened by the closure. More importantly, they would do well to look to the security of their own institutions.

## THE VICTORIAN VETERINARY OFFICERS DISPUTE

This long running and exhausting dispute is still going on, and has now focused on laboratory veterinarians. Field veterinary officer positions have now been placed in a new 'Science Veterinary' classification which retains their current salaries and their distinction from science graduate. However a Ministry of Industrial Affairs working party has been set up to determine whether laboratory vets need to be registered. Those positions which they decide need not be registered will be open to science graduates and attract science classification salaries, considerably lower than current veterinary salaries. The ASVP has written to the State Minister of Industrial Affairs, Minister of Agriculture (several times), Director

General of Agriculture and the Veterinary Board of Victoria, putting our views and objections to the whole proposition that laboratory veterinarians should be considered for downgrading.

Meanwhile the State government has decided to reduce staff levels in the Department of Agriculture, and the heaviest reductions are to come in livestock research. The Veterinary Research Institute, Parkville is to be closed and overall staff in Vet Labs reduced by 61 people. No sackings are proposed, but redeployment is being considered.

If all of this wasn't enough, a detailed Public Service Board review of all animal health services in the State has just started, with the likelihood of restructuring to follow.

Australian College of Veterinary Scientists Membership Examination in Pathology

In conjunction with the May 1985 AVA meeting in Melbourne, the pathologist Fellows of the Pathobiology Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists will meet to consider the formation of a separate Pathology Chapter and the definition of examination requirements.

Your accreditation examination working party considers this a favourable development. Pathologists comprise a minority among Pathobiology Chapter Fellows. It would facilitate negotiations if the Pathology Fellows could indicate that a substantial number of ASVP Members may be interested in taking a College Membership Examination in pathology in 1986.

The accreditation working party .thus .suggests that ASVP Members who are potential Members of the College complete the form below which comprises an expression of interest in taking the 1986 Membership examination and forward to the Secretary. We would be grateful for your assistance.

Susan Friend

Clive Huxtable

Cor Lenghaus

Neill Sullivan (Convenor)

I am interested in taking the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists Membership Examination in 1986.

Signed .....

Please forward to:

Dr. L. Stephens,  
Secretary,  
Australian Society for Veterinary Pathology,  
P.O. Box 483,  
BAIRNSDALE VIC. 3875

### 3.

#### Subscriptions Overdue - Final Notice

Eighteen members have not paid their 1984-85 subscriptions.

If you are one of the offenders, a yellow notice will be appended to this newsletter.

In line with the constitution, members who do not pay within 30 days of this notice will be deleted from the register.

#### NEWS FROM THE STATES

QUEENSLAND - Prepared by Roger Kelly.

We are seeing granulomatous meningoencephalitis (GME) in dogs now about as frequently as distemper encephalitis and, recently, we had two litter-mate Labrador pups come down with GME within a week. In both animals the lesions, although extensive, were almost entirely confined to the left side of the midline. In one animal the lesions were very neoplastic in histological appearance (the so-called reticulosis variant). The pups were only 10 weeks old.

#### GRADUATE SCHOOL OF TROPICAL VETS SCIENCE - (Phil Ladds)

Interesting cases included diffuse mycotic encephalitis in a young (8 month old) Persian cat. A fungus with the morphology of Cladosporium sp. was isolated (by staff at O.V.L., Qoonoona) from the lesion.

Toxoplasma-like organisms associated with a vigorous pyogranulomatous polyneuritis and painful and difficult movement of the hindlimbs was observed in a young dog with suspected hip dysplasia.

A solitary focal lesion in a bovine adrenal gland from the abattoir was diagnosed as a teratoma - has anyone else observed such a lesion?

On the research side, current interests of the pathology section of the G.S.T.V.S. include correlative lesion-lymph node pathology in cattle (Phil Ladds is still awaiting responses to the October A.S.V.P. newsletter!), pathological and immunopathological studies of ram genitalia, ovine aural SCC immunopathology, leptospiral epidemiology and pathology, and structure and pathology of ruminants in tropical environments. In other studies a newly-developed ELISA test for BVD in cattle seems very promising, and good initial results are also being obtained using an ELISA test for ephemeral fever in cattle.

#### OONOONBA VETERINARY LABORATORY

Recent interesting cases include: Probable Histoplasma capsulatum infection in a 5-year-old dog with weight loss and chronic diarrhoea. Sickness or death in a number of goats following ingestion of Crotalaria sp. Myopathy in a horse due to Cassia occidentalis. Copper poisoning in cattle following accidental ingestion of CuSO<sub>4</sub>- with resultant CuSO<sub>4</sub> liver necrosis and biliary retention. ILT causing deaths in game birds and confirmed by electromicroscopy. Psittacosis as a cause of death in five parrots in a group of 20 in Mount Isa; Chlamydia psittaci was isolated in BAGM cells.

Current pathology-oriented research at OVL includes: Possible relationship of ammonia (in lush pasture) toxicity to abortion in cattle. Role of non-pathogenic Mycobacteria in confounding T.B. testing in cattle. Life cycle, pathogenesis and pathological studies of stephanafilariasis in cattle.

Epidemiological and pathological, studies of melioidosis (in various species). Coccidiosis in calves. Haemoprotozoal infections in birds. In collaboration with the GSTVS, studies on ovine SCC and malignant catarrhal fever are ongoing.

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##### ARI – YEERONGPILLY - (Fraser Trueman)

###### Regional Laboratories for Queensland

Construction of two regional diagnostic laboratories is expected to commence within 12 months. The existing B.T.B. laboratory at Rockhampton will be upgraded to handle diagnostic work, and a new laboratory will be built at the D.P.I. complex in Toowoomba. Mike Hill has been consulting with the architects regarding plans and design.

###### ARI Celebrates Diamond Jubilee

75 years of service to the animal industries was celebrated at the Annual Research Institute on 30th November 1984. Over 100 guests inspected the facilities and work displays presented by the staff. This was followed by a celebration party and Barbeque.

###### Dermatophilosis Involved In Exotic Alerts

Dermatophilus congolensis infection was responsible for two exotic disease alerts during the half-year. The first was a 9 month old Angus calf near Killarney. When examined it had signs of copious salivation and moderate lameness. There were several ulcerations at the mucocutaneous junction of the lips, several ulcerations of the buccal mucosa and several ulcerations on the dorso-lateral aspect of the tongue. Feet lesions comprised interdigital necrosis with desquamation of the epithelium of the interdigital spaces, and thickening and fissuring of the coronary bands. Laboratory examination showed the tongue lesions to be granulomas caused by penetrating plant material. The other mouth lesions and the feet lesions were positive for Dermatophilus infection.

The second case was a lame, salivating Hereford bull at Burpengary. It had diffuse erosion of the dental pad and scab formation around mouth, nostrils and coronets. The layered appearance of the scabs was typical of Dermatophilus infection but smears and culture were negative for the organisms. A dental pad scraping was positive for Dermatophilus.

##### SOUTH AUSTRALIA - Prepared by Peter Phillips

###### Septicaemia in lambs

A group of crossbred lambs from the Adelaide hills showed ataxia and circling for 24 hours before becoming recumbent. Necropsy of one revealed purulent meningitis, arthritis, endocarditis and pneumonia. An organism resembling Haemophilus paragallinarum was isolated from brain and joints.

###### Hindlimb stiffness in weaners - (Earle Gardner)

More than 50 crossbred lambs from a property in the Murray Mallee developed stiffness of hindlimbs, weepy eyes and failure to thrive after weaning. Necropsy of three weaners revealed a fibrinous tenosynovitis involving the joints of all limbs, but a causative agent was not isolated. Penicillin treatment of the flock did not help.

###### Echium plantagineum, (Salvation Jane) toxicity in horses - (R. Giesecke)

Following the wet winter of 1983 a profuse growth of the plant occurred in the mid north, lower light, Barossa Valley, Southern Vales and outer metropolitan districts of the State. Forty nine cases of suspected Jane poisoning in horses were reported to the lab. Symptoms described were weight loss, jaundice, lethargy, inappetence, mild liver or abdominal pain, weakness of the hindquarters, head pressing and aimless wandering. Isolated cases of laminitis, ulceration of margins of the tongue, conjunctivitis and enteritis were seen. Haematuria was reported in three cases and neurological disturbances in four. The

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majority of submissions were from thoroughbred and crossbred hacks. The majority of cases occurred in October, November and December, but cases continued until the following June.

Serum biochemical profiles were obtained for 46 horses. Twenty of these showed elevated gamma glutamyl transferase (GGT), alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and Lactic Dehydrogenase (LDH).

Decreased albumin levels were present in 17 of them. Therefore biochemical evidence of hepatopathy was confirmed in approximately 43 per cent of the clinical cases.

Liver samples from two of the horses showed lesions of pyrrolizidine alkaloidosis - hepatocellular necrosis, megalocytosis and interstitial fibrosis with varying degrees of bile duct hyperplasia. Some interstitial fibrosis was also seen in the kidneys from one of the horses.

### Update on annual ryegrass toxicity - (Robin Giesecke)

Losses of sheep and cattle have been high this season, after a lull in the 83/4 season. A particularly heavy mortality occurred in a poll merino stud which lost 145 stud ewes and 73 lambs within six days of removal from the toxic paddock. Treatment of ewes with librium (5 tablets orally) was attempted early in the outbreak, but all treated ewes died.

Cattle deaths occurred on another property which had sprayed the pasture with Hoegrass following deaths the previous season. However insufficient cover of fence lines had allowed sufficient ryegrass to grow and produce infected galls.

### NEW SOUTH WALES - Prepared by John Glastonbury.

#### STAFF

Dr. Tony Shannon has been appointed Director of the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Glenfield and is due to commence duty early in February 1985. Since graduating from the University of Sydney in 1965, Tony has worked at the Wallaceville Animal Research Centre in New Zealand, The Department of Experimental Pathology, John Curtin School of Medical Research A.N.U., The Australian Bureau of Animal Health and The Cell Surface Biochemistry Laboratory Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratories London.

Tony Ross and Don Jones have commenced duty as Veterinary Research Officers at the Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Glenfield.

During November 1984, Peter Mylrea, Director of Animal Health Research, New South Wales Department of Agriculture, visited Indonesia to make preliminary arrangements for an aid project to be conducted by the New South Wales Department in the Eastern Islands.

#### DISEASE HIGHLIGHTS

Phalaris Staggers. During late spring phalaris staggers was frequently diagnosed in the central and south-west areas of this state. Mark Carrigan of the R.V.L. Orange is currently collating the results of their investigations into the problem for publication. One outbreak investigated by the R.V.L. Wagga Wagga was interesting in that the animals had been grazing the "sirolan" strain of Phalaris tuberosa which has been selectively bred for its low levels of tryptamine alkaloids.

Tritrichomonas. Since May, 1984, Tritrichomona foetus has been isolated on seven separate occasions at the R.V.L. Armidale from vaginal mucus, aborted calves or preputial washings. Prior to this the organism was last isolated during 1977. Not to be outdone Campylobacter foetus subsp. venerealis also was isolated on six occasions during the same period.

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Encephalomyocarditis (EMC) and Foetal Death. Some recent excitement at the R.V.L. Wagga Wagga is described below by Ian Links and Richard Whittington:

"Encephalomyocarditis (EMC) is an important disease of pigs in New South Wales. The virus which causes the infection is harboured by rats and mice. Disease outbreaks occur where infected rodents contaminate pig feed or the sheds in which susceptible pigs are kept. Piglets and young growers are generally found dead and post mortem examination reveals congestive heart failure. The virus multiplies in the myocardium causing severe degeneration of muscle fibres, resulting in heart failure. During the current mouse plague there has been an upsurge in the incidence of EMC in New South Wales. Cases have been reported from most areas of the State.

Coinciding with the mouse plague in south-western New South Wales there has been an increase in the number of abortions, stillbirths and the proportion of mummified piglets in litters in a number of piggeries. On one large piggery the production loss as a result of this problem has been 12%. The common picture is for a sow to farrow a large number of mummified piglets of different sizes, together with several dead full term piglets, after day 106 of gestation.

Laboratory investigations have been aimed at eliminating the known causes of this type of problem, namely leptospirosis, porcine parvovirus and SMEDI virus. We have found no evidence to suggest these infections, and have been unable to demonstrate any other known causative agents. There were, however, histological changes consistent with EMC virus infection in the hearts of several stillborn piglets-from two piggeries. EMC virus has now been isolated in cell culture from piglets from both piggeries.

EMC has not been previously associated with-foetal deaths in pigs anywhere in the world, although transplacental infection is known to occur and the virus has been isolated from a stillborn piglet once before. We are therefore enthusiastically investigating the EMC virus involvement in the present outbreak".

WESTERN AUSTRALIA - Prepared by Dave Pass

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - PERTH

Three gibbons from the Perth Zoo died from a severe fibrinous colitis. Shigella flexneri Type 3 was isolated from the gut with some difficulty but many organisms were seen in the lesions. -The source of the bacteria has not been completely determined but organisms have been cultured from the faeces of clinically normal gibbons in one other cage at the zoo. All the keepers are negative.

MURDOCH VET. STUDIES

Papova-like virus infection in lovebirds

Numerous cases of sudden death in lovebirds have been examined over the past three years. Nineteen of these birds, have died from papova-like virus infections. The major gross findings are small pale spleen and often a swollen mottled liver. Histologically, there is focal or zonal hepatic necrosis and haemorrhage and marked splenic necrosis and loss of lymphocytes. Many remaining splenic nuclei appear empty with peripheral margination of chromatin. Similar nuclei are always present in renal glomeruli and occasionally are found in the sinusoidal lining cells of the liver. On electron microscopy the majority of affected nuclei contain loosely aggregated chromatin but some contain virus particles typical of papovavirus as seen overseas.

Enteritis in goats

Over the past two years we have had several cases of acute fibrino-necrotic enterocolitis in adult goats. Salmonellosis was suspected in each but Salmonellae have never been isolated. The aetiology in most cases has not been determined. Late last year a six year old goat died after an acute illness characterised by dysentery and depression. The goat was necropsied soon after death and had fluid and fibrin within the lower small intestine but no obvious thickening of the mucosa. The large bowel was empty. Mesenteric lymph nodes were enlarged and oedematous and the spleen was enlarged and congested. No significant bacteria were isolated on microaerophilic culture. Histologically, there was superficial necrosis of the small intestinal mucosa and large numbers of bacilli were present on the surface and focally within Peyer's patches. There was acute autolysis of renal tubular epithelium but other components of the kidney were not autolysed. We strongly suspect that this was a real case of enterotoxaemia. Unfortunately, the brain was not examined. The Perth Department of Agriculture has recently confirmed eight cases of enterotoxaemia in goats by mouse protection tests.

Renal disease in Bull Terriers.

A clinical diagnosis of chronic renal failure associated with progressive renal disease was made in three Bull Terriers. The dogs' ages ranged from one to six years. The clinical findings included weight loss, lethargy, anorexia, polyuria, polydipsia and vomiting and dehydration. Affected dogs were azotemic and had elevated serum phosphate and cholesterol. Urine specific gravity measured in two cases ranged from 1.01 to 1.015. The primary abnormality appeared to be nephron obstruction and fibrosis, particularly in the corticomedullary area. Marked nephron loss ensued. Three affected dogs shared a number of common ancestors. The Breeders concerned identified a further eleven closely related dogs with signs suggestive of chronic renal disease.

Aspergillus terreus.

We have recently seen A. terreus infection in a breed other than a German Shepard. A four year old Dalmation was presented with fungal osteomyelitis due to A. terreus. Lesions were also found in the draining nodes, spleen and kidney at necropsy.

Pug Dog Encephalitis.

Two female Pugs, twelve and eighteen months old respectively were presented with acute onset of ataxia, loss of proprioception which progressed to coma and death. Both had been vaccinated for distemper and one had never left the house or yard. Both dogs had severe meningoencephalitis predominantly in the cerebral cortex. In one case, there was also severe demyelination. These cases closely resemble Pug Dog encephalitis as described in "Veterinary Neurology" by Delahunta. The cases were negative for Distemper virus on PAP. It may be an autoimmune disease.

Congenital Secondary Hypothyroidism in a six week old Deer Hound.

The puppy was smaller than its littermates, had a rather domed skull, and slept most of the time. Radiography showed an almost complete lack of epiphyseal ossification centres. The thyroids were markedly atrophied and the adenohypophysis contained few differentiated pituitocytes. Many of the pituitocytes were enlarged with extensive cytoplasmic vacuolation. The atrophic thyroids, pituitary lesions and skeletal changes are suggestive of a lack of TSH production. Although not published, this disease has been seen in Deer Hounds in the U.S.A.

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### TASMANIA - Prepared by Dave Obendorf

#### White Muscle Disease in Kid Goats

A number of cases of white muscle disease have been seen in kid goats this spring. Most cases were seen in October but cases have occurred from September to November. Affected animals ranged in age from about 1 to 8 weeks old. Angora, Angora crosses and Anglonubian breeds were involved. Most animals died acutely from cardiac failure.

Where tissues were examined from affected animals or herd cohorts, liver Vitamin E and/or selenium were low, blood glutathione peroxidase levels were low (<10 U/gHb) and plasma Vitamin E levels were low (<1 to 6 umol/l).

It would seem desirable to treat pregnant does with selenium and Vitamin E prior to kidding and also to treat kids once they are mothered up.

Care should be exercised with small kids (e.g. Angora breed) when using selenium because of overdosing and producing acute selenium poisoning. If using selenium containing clostridial vaccines as the method of selenium administration, ensure it is of the appropriate concentration for young lambs. Deaths in kid goats from acute selenium poisoning have occurred because they were given adult strength selenium containing vaccine.

#### Suspect Rodenticide Poisoning in Ducks - (Roy Mason)

"Ratsac Super" and "Talon" are rodenticide baits containing 50mg brodifacoum/kg. The acute lethal dose 50% (LD50) for brodifacoum in rats and mice is 0.4 mg/kg and 0.27 to 0.53 mg/kg bodyweight respectively. A rodent may absorb a lethal dose by eating bait as part of its food on only one occasion.

Recently, 3 ducks, a chestnut teal and 2 black duck were submitted for autopsy. They had been found dead without showing previous ill health. All losses occurred within a few days of each other. The post-mortem lesions were restricted to haemorrhage, mainly in the subcutaneous tissues. There was no sign of trauma to account for the haemorrhage.

"Talon" had recently been used on the property. It had been placed in an inverted box with holes to allow access to rodents but not ducks. No poison was known to have been spilt.

The acute LD50 of brodifacoum in Mallard ducks is 0.31 mg/kg, similar to that for rats and mice. However, because of the greater body weight of ducks, they would have to eat more poison (e.g. 10X to 15X) than a mouse to be killed.

Based on the post mortem findings, use of "Talon" and the low LD50 of brodifacoum for ducks, it is reasonable to believe the 3 ducks died from "Talon" poisoning. It is considered unlikely that black duck or chestnut teal would have eaten dead rats or mice but it is possible that the rodents may have carried bait from the box to areas accessible to the ducks.

It has been recommended that a switch to wax blocks impregnated with rodenticide be undertaken to overcome any further problems with translocated bait being eaten by ducks (Bromakil - Rentokil Pty. Ltd.).

#### Caprine Retrovirus Survey in Tasmania

Barry Munday has provided the following tables of results from the survey.



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BREED PREVALENCE

Breed	Angora Alpine	British	Cashmere	Nubian	Other	Saanen	Toggenberg
Number Positive	9	80	1	56	1	64	23
Number Bled	217	141	302	108	34	173	70
Prevalence (%)	4.1	56.7	.3	51.9	2.9	37	32.9

(In-Contact flocks included after adjustment for non-random sampling)

AGE SPECIFIC PREVALENCE

	0MTH TO 6MTH	7MTH TO 11MTH	1.0Y TO 1.5Y	1.6Y TO 2.5Y	2.6Y TO 3.5Y	3.6Y TO 4.5Y	4.6Y TO 5.5Y	5.6Y TO 6.5Y	6.6Y								
	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#								
	WITH BLED	WITH BLED	WITH BLED	WITH BLED	WITH BLED	WITH BLED	WITH BLED	WITH BLED	WITH BLED								
	TITRES	TITRES	TITRES	TITRES	TITRES	TITRES	TITRES	TITRES	TITRES								
FIBRE BREEDS#	0	82	0	8	3	137	5	98	0	55	0	91	0	18	0	7	0
PREVALENCE (%)	0	0	2.2	5.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DAIRY BREEDS#	8	37	22	43	43	90	26	123	30	67	31	89	5	20	7	28	6
PREVALENCE (%) #	21.6	51.2	47.8	21.1	44.8	34.8	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	21.4

SEX-SPECIFIC PREVALENCE

	MALES			FEMALES		
	NUMBER POSITIVE	NUMBER BLED	REACTOR RATE (%)	NUMBER POSITIVE	NUMBER BLED	REACTOR RATE (%)
FIBRE BREEDS	0	74	0	10	380	2.6
DAIRY BREEDS	26	62	41.9	202	474	42.6

VICTORIA - Prepared by Robert Jones

VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE - (John Finnie)

Hepatic Coccidiosis, due to Imperia sp., was found in a Magpie lark. This disease has not previously been reported in birds. Mitotic septicaemia, characterised by miliary granulomas, was diagnosed in Japanese quail chicks. Macro. rhizopus, Penicillium, Pullularia and Aspergillus spp. were recovered on culture.

BENDIGO REGIONAL VETERINARY LABORATORY- (Les Sims)

Oedema Disease

A piggery near Ballarat was experiencing high levels of post weaning mortality, peaking at 18%. Pigs became sick about 8 days after weaning with swollen eyelids and distorted vocalisation, but no scour. The feed had been medicated with 350g/tonne neomycin with little response.

Three live pigs with these signs were submitted and found to have oedema of the pharynx, mesentery and eyelids. The stomachs of the piglets were full, but the rest of the intestinal tracts were empty and not remarkable. Haemolytic E.coli (K88 and K99 negative, 0 serogroup to be determined) were isolated from all sites in the small and large intestine. The piglets were not fed creep and were weaned at 4 weeks of age.

Oedema disease has been diagnosed rarely in the North West over the past 7 years, yet was a common condition 15 years ago. This is probably associated with altered management strategies, especially the shift towards early weaning.

Oedema disease is associated with multiplication of certain toxigenic strains (verotoxin producers?) of E.coli within the intestine. The disease differs markedly from the highly prevalent post weaning E.coli diarrhoea, which is the major disease in this age group.

The reason for the appearance of oedema disease on the property is not known.

HAMILTON REGIONAL VETERINARY LABORATORY- (Cor Lenghaus)

Aeromonas hydrophila septicaemia in Redfin.

Lake Hamilton is an artificial lake approximately 2 sq km in surface area with an average depth of 3-4 m. Over a period of 5-8 years it has been stocked with Redfin, Yellowbelly (Callops) and Trout. In early November 1984, Redfin were noticed to be dying in large numbers. Three dead and one moribund Redfin were submitted to the RVL Hamilton. Grossly all fish had 1-2mm diameter, soft white foci scattered throughout the liver. There were small, radial haemorrhages on the gill filaments and haemorrhages in the stomach and intestines. Aeromonas hydrophila was cultured from the livers of all fish.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE 1985  
VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
PARKVILLE, MELBOURNE  
18th & 19th MAY 1985**

**PROGRAMME**

DAY 1 - (Saturday 18th May)      THEME:    RENAL PATHOLOGY

The format will be identical to previous years, with presentation of cases by members, followed by discussion. Members wishing to present a case should send a slide immediately to the secretary - see below.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr. Louie Filippich, Veterinary Pathologist, University of Queensland will give two half hour presentations, one covering the renal pathology of the pre-renal, renal and post renal failure, and are on macro and microscopic evaluation of renal dysfunction.

A second speaker will be announced soon.

DAY 2 - (Sunday 19th May)

Presentation of case reports, research results etc., on any subject related to veterinary pathology.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

This will be held in the morning of Day 2. An agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting. Nominations for President, Secretary, Treasurer and 2 committee members must reach the secretary by 31st March. These should be in writing, seconded, and endorsed by the nominee.

REGISTRATION FEE:    \$20.00

This fee covers costs of proceedings, lunch, coffee, etc.

ACCOMODATION:

A block of rooms has been booked at Trinity College, University of Melbourne. Unlike last year, members are requested to book through the secretary of the ASVP and not directly to the College. The cost of bed and breakfast is \$25.00 per person per night. Rooms allocated on first come, first served basis. Single rooms only available.

PROCEEDINGS BOOKLET

Once again, these will be circulated prior to the meeting.

\*\*\*\*\* VISITORS ARE WELCOME \*\*\*\*\*

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Histologically there was focal necrosis of the liver, kidney, pancreas and mucosa of the gastrointestinal tract. Larger necrotic foci had centres of unidentifiable cell debris, surrounded by a zone of coagulative necrosis in which the tissue architecture was well preserved. There was little inflammatory cell response to such foci. Bacteria consistent with *Aeromonas* were found in small numbers in necrotic areas, both within cells and free in the debris. In many tissues, including liver, kidney and gastrointestinal tract, there was a severe vasculitis and perivasculitis, with thrombosis of major vessels. There was a localised peritonitis especially of the stomach and proximal intestine.

This outbreak of *Aeromonas* septicaemia was exclusive to Redfin and resolved spontaneously in about 3 weeks. At this time *Aeromonas hydrophila* could still be readily isolated from the intestinal tracts of Redfin, Yellowbelly, and yabbies from Lake Hamilton and from lake water.

*Aeromonas* is a well recognized cause of death in fish under stress. In this case the fish had just finished spawning. There was also evidence that the lake had become overstocked. A high water temperature and high levels of organic material had created conditions favourable for bacterial proliferation. *Aeromonas* is present in all inland Victorian waters. No guidelines are available for interpreting *Aeromonas* counts.

RTJ Note: *Aeromonas hydrophila* septicaemia was diagnosed in Redfin in December by Bendigo RVL.  
The fish died in a dam on a poultry farm.

### Progressive Motor Paralysis of Sheep

In January 1984 issue, we reported progressive motor paralysis in sheep associated with grazing onion grass. This disease was seen again in our region during autumn 1984. An identical clinical and pathological condition was seen during early summer '84-'85 (Nov-Jan) in mobs of sheep grazing a particular paddock with a large amount of pasture litter ('83 oat crop stubble). Onion grass was not present.

**NOTES FOR SPEAKERS**

**DAY 1            RENAL PATHOLOGY**

A major difference this year is that speakers must provide 40 cut glass slides instead of a paraffin block. A sample slide plus details should be sent to the secretary by 31st March. You will be advised if the case is accepted, when 40 slides should be sent to the secretary for distribution. The history for publication in the proceedings should be set out as described below.

**DAY 2            GENERAL**

Approximately 15 papers on any subject relating to veterinary pathology will be presented on this day. Papers will be accepted in order of receipt.

Abstracts should be prepared as described below. They should be less than 1 page long, containing a brief introduction, methods, conclusions and possibly citing several major references on the topic. Abstracts received after 31st March cannot be included in the proceedings booklet.

Speakers on both days should aim to talk for 10 minutes, leaving 10 minutes for discussion. It will not be possible to project glass histological slides. Therefore 2x2 transparencies of salient lesions should be prepared.

**PREPARATION OF HISTORIES (DAY 1)  
AND ABSTRACTS (DAY 2)**

- \* Type single-spaced on one A4 page, using "Elite" type with a carbon ribbon.
  - \* Leave 3.5cm margin on the left and 2.5cm margin on all other sides to allow for binding and trimming.
  - \* Even if the text is brief, begin at the top of the page, and leave the remainder blank for notes.
  - \* Remember the copy you send will be photocopied exactly as it appears for binding into the booklet. No corrections or errors please!
  - \* Mail flat to the Secretary, ASVP, PO Box 483, Bairnsdale. Vic. 3875
- 

Suggested lay-out for case histories (Day 1):

Case No. (leave blank)

J.A. Smith,  
Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Dimboola, Vic. 3414

History

A three year old male Cocker Spaniel was depressed for 5 days .....

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Suggested lay-out for abstracts (Day 2):

**AN OUTBREAK OF NEPHROSIS IN GOATS**

J.A. Smith,  
Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Dimboola, Vic, 3414

Twenty-five of a group of 100 goats died after eating silage ....

References

Smith, J. (1983) Aust. Vet. J. **101**: 290.

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**\*\* REMEMBER THESE DEADLINES \*\***

31st March - Receipt of abstracts, histories and specimen slides.

30<sup>th</sup> April – Final date for registration

15.

**ASVP ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

(Complete only if different from computer address label)

TITLE OF PAPER: .....

.....

Please Tick:

Day 1 ..... (Renal Pathology)

Day 2 ..... (General)

ACCOMMODATION – (Trinity College Only)

Dates room required: .....

MONEY ENCLOSED:

Registration Fee \$20.00

Accommodation Fee (\$25.00/night) \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques payable to ASVP.

Return this form to:

The Secretary,  
A.S.V.P.,  
P.O. Box 483,  
BAIRNSDALE. VIC. 3875.  
Telephone: (051) 52 2751.