

Hi everyone

Please find below the latest ASAP news.

Workplace Hygiene Monitoring - Protecting Your Patients & Protecting Your Staff



Veterinary practices are a challenging environment from a hygiene perspective. While we strive to keep the environment clean and pathogen free, there are constant challenges to this process. The build-up of potentially pathogenic microbes could be a significant risk to both healthy and unwell patients alike. Despite all the best intentions, can you satisfy yourself that the environment is as clean as you would like? Are your cleaning protocols appropriate and the cleaning products actually effective?

Surgace Hygiene and Effective Sterilisation Programme

ASAP are now providing a programme to help ensure your practice environment can be monitored for cleanliness and sterility. ASAP will provide monitoring of surface microbial load in low-risk, semi-clean and very clean areas as well as evaluation of autoclave efficacy. In this way practices can monitor trends in microbial counts to assist in developing and maintaining appropriate cleaning protocols and to ensure sterile equipment is indeed aseptic. This is provided in a monthly pack.

This takes the form of two distinct processes:

* **Contact plates** are provided for determining the microbial load on cleaned surfaces.

* **Spore strips** are used to determine effective sterilisation in the autoclave

Each month plates and strips are sent out to practices and returned to ASAP. Each month the results are sent back to participating clinics and stored for comparison. Trends in microbial load can be readily checked and measures instituted to ensure appropriate cleaning is taking place. More complex environmental monitoring can be requested in the event of significant microbial overload or in the event of a nosocomial infection outbreak. In these cases ASAP staff can advise on the best methods available to monitor the infection control.

Contact Plates

We suggest checking surfaces across a range of areas within the practice such as high traffic areas (eg. consulting tables), clean areas (eg. surgical preparation areas) and very clean rooms such as the surgery theatre. Checking cages, tiles near dental stations for aerosol contamination, and other surfaces should be considered. 10 plates are sent out in each pack and we suggest 4 plates are used in standard sites including;

- * Consult room table
- * Kennel floor
- * Treatment room or pre-surgical table
- * Theatre table

The remaining 6-plates can be used at your discretion on a more random basis. Contact plates are gently applied to a surface for 2-3 seconds and then lifted and covered. Write the location on the cover and seal with some tape. These plates will be cultured at ASAP and the number of microbial colonies enumerated and recorded. We would encourage you to keep good records of sites sampled.

Spore Strips

These will be sent out monthly to participating practices. These are placed into the autoclave with a routine sterilisation run and upon completion are sent back to Vetpath for culture.

Practices can participate in the programme for a full year, each quarter or for a single month. See charges below.

Single submission of 10 contact plates and 1 spore strip for autoclave is \$70.00 + GST

Quarterly cost for 10 contact plates and 1 spore strip for autoclave every 3 months is \$240.00 + GST

Annual cost: for 10 contact plates and 1 spore strip for autoclave per month is \$700.00 + GST

All practices joining the scheme will be sent a Certificate of Participation. Please [contact us](#) if you require more information and or would like to participate

Meet Kelli Hansford the person on the other side of the phone



Kelli has been with the ASAP team for nearly three years. Starting off in the DNA department with George before she moved into Specimen Reception where she has been a shining light. Being in Spec Rec allows Kelli the opportunity interact with many of the staff in the clinics. You have probably spoken to Kelli many times, and now have a picture to match the voice.

In her spare time, Kelli has a love of everything vintage, from her 1963 EH Holden to the 1950's cookware that dominates her kitchen.

She also loves to airbrush anything that stays still long enough!

At the end of the day Kelli looks forward to going home to her family and her Labrador cross named Rosie.

My Pathology Shop May Special



Heartworm Antigen Detection Kit (Megacor)
x10 - \$77.00 + GST (Normally \$90 + GST)

Made in AUSTRIA
Expiry 31st Jan 2017

FASTest® HW Antigen is a rapid immunochromatographic test for the qualitative detection of *Dirofilaria immitis* specific antigens in whole blood, plasma or serum of the dog and cat

Detection of: Antigen
Sample material: Whole blood, plasma or serum
Test time/duration: 15 minutes
Storage: Room temperature (15–25°C)
Sensitivity: 98.6 %
Specificity: 99.1 %
Comparison method: Knott's Test
Test procedure: Rapid test
Format: 1 package with 10 test cassettes

Please apply discount code: **mypathshop5** when [ordering online](#). (Valid to the 31st May and only while stock lasts).

Sample Labelling



In conjunction with NATA requirements, we ask that all tubes and specimens submitted are clearly labelled. Two identifiers are preferable so please include patient name and surname.

This is extremely important to prevent any confusion in specimen reception and sample mix up.

Please try to avoid putting large stickers on tubes as these interfere with our instruments. If at all possible please hand write the patient name and surname on the tube.

Thank you for reading