

Effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, The Diagnostic Parasitology section will offer several new test panels. Collectively, these panels will be offered at a substantial savings when compared to ordering each test individually. These changes will provide better service for our clients while keeping costs reasonable.

The small animal fecal panels will broaden the spectrum of detection for intestinal parasites.

- 1) **Fecal Panel (Zinc and sugar flotation) Routine** – This replaces the separate centrifugal “sugar float” and “zinc float” tests. By incorporating both techniques this panel detects all parasite eggs, oocysts, cysts, and larvae that are successfully concentrated using different densities (*e.g.*, SUGAR for *Cryptosporidium* oocysts, nematode [esp. *Trichuris*], and tapeworm eggs; ZINC SULFATE for *Giardia* cysts, fluke eggs and lungworm larvae). As always, the largest reasonable sample that can be submitted (a handful or so) will increase the chance of our successful detection of parasites in your patient.
- 2) ***Giardia* Panel w/Sugar Flotation**– The current *Giardia* panel will now include a sugar flotation. This will improve the spectrum of parasites that can be detected as noted above, as coinfections or alternate infections are sometimes detected in animals suspected of having giardiasis.

Updated heartworm panels will improve the sensitivity of heartworm testing with the additional Knott’s test evaluation for the presence of microfilariae. This standard is endorsed by the American Heartworm Society and the Companion Animal Parasite Council and will provide high quality care for your patients.

#### Canine Heartworm Panels –Routine and Well Check

- 1) **Heartworm Dirochek™ and Knott’s** (antigen and microfilariae)
- 2) **Heartworm Idexx SNAP™ and Knott’s** (antigen and microfilariae)
- 3) **Heartworm Idexx 4Dx Plus SNAP™ and Knott’s** (antigen, microfilariae, and antibodies to *Borrelia*, *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*/*A. platys*, *Ehrlichia canis*/*E. ewingii*)

Other heartworm panels will remain unchanged but still follow the standard endorsed by the American Heartworm Society and the Companion Animal Parasite Council and will provide high quality care for your patients.

- 1) **Canine Heartworm Verification Panel** – *Test unchanged*. Confirmation testing for suspect infections or to evaluate previous positive antigen test. This unique panel is only available from our lab. This includes antigen tests (Dirochek™, Idexx SNAP™ and/or Idexx 4Dx Plus SNAP™) and a Knott’s exam.
- 2) **Feline Heartworm Panel** – *Test unchanged*. This test includes an antigen (Dirochek™) and antibody test.