



Getting SDIs completed

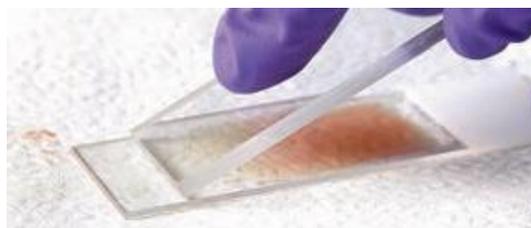
Hi all - We have had a number of SDIs present with hindquarter incoordination. At the 2019 Masterclass Lee Taylor discussed diagnosis of nervous conditions in the north and in this newsletter we've included some of his reminders.

Doing a blood smear quickly after collection in every case is a great insurance policy against deterioration in sample quality (which I notice has been the case in quite a few of the recent SDIs). There is a guide to [making great smears](#) available from DPIRD WA.

To make it easier for you to send a report to your SDI client, we have set up a 'fillable pdf template' ([access here](#)).

This round of the 'practice package' contracts is coming to a close. Lisa has asked for **SDIs to be completed and invoiced by mid-June**, so it's time to finalise the investigations you have on the go. We will get back to you about the next phase of the program as soon as we can.

Cheers Kev
Newsletter #11 (15 May 2019)



Staggers in young stock

Between August and December a property at Katherine NT reported five cases of [hindleg ataxia in Brahman heifers and weaners](#). None recovered. Spinal cord histopathology and an abundance of cycad seeds in the rumen led to a diagnosis of Zamia poisoning.

At the 2019 Masterclass Lee Taylor discussed diagnosis of nervous conditions in the north:

- Keep the [list of the differentials](#) in mind
- Always collect fresh spleen to rule out BEF in downer or ataxic animals
- When investigating nervous conditions – map where losses have occurred and get a good history, including: proportion affected, timeline, stock movements, access to dump sites, new feed sources, rainfall records.

View Lee's footage of ataxic cattle caused by [Zamia palm poisoning](#)



Next gross path challenge - what do you see?

Describe what you see in the picture below.



Bovine (Photo credit: The Joint Pathology Centre WSC)

Cues in Shirley's Guide to Gross PM Descriptions (below)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Describe what you see, don't over-interpret ➤ Describe everything you notice as different ➤ Be methodical, have a system and stick to it ➤ Take photos, they add to (not replace) a good description 	<p style="text-align: center;">Location</p> <p>Organ - lobe/part Cranial / caudal / dorsal / ventral Left / right Distal / proximal External / internal Visceral / parietal</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Number and extent</p> <p>Count if few, estimate if many Percentage of organ involvement Focal / multifocal Coalescing / diffuse</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Colour</p> <p>Simple colours - use combinations eg yellow-brown Shades / degrees: dark, light, mottled, streaked, stippled</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Size</p> <p>Measurements (mm/cm) Range Haemorrhages: Petechiae (1-2mm), ecchymoses (up to 2-3cm), purpura (if extensive), paintbrush (if streaked) Into space = haematoma, into body cavity = haemothorax etc</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shape</p> <p>Ovoid / circular / conical / wedge-shaped / fusiform Irregular, linear Flat / raised / depressed Ulcerated / eroded Pedunculated / lobular / tortuous / laminated / clustered</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Consistency and texture</p> <p>Soft (lips) / firm (nose) / hard (forehead) Fluctuant / fluid-filled / turgid Gas-filled / friable / crepitant Fluids: Viscous / mucoid / stringy Clear / cloudy Contents: Dry / inspissated / caseous / gritty / granular / gelatinous</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Content</p> <p>Volume Colour Odour Consistency Clear / cloudy / colour</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Findings may not be lesions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Could be: normal / an artefact / PM change / parasitic / a lesion of no significance</p>	

How did you go? - [answer](#)

Welcome to Sarah Simpson at AHA

Sarah recently joined Animal Health Australia (AHA) based in Cairns and is taking on the Industry Liaison Officer role following the departure of Jess Rummery.

Sarah has worked in extension roles for seven years in the horticulture industry of north Queensland, focussing on on-farm biosecurity, environmental best practice and industry development. She has completed tertiary studies in Animal Science and Management and is currently studying Agribusiness. Sarah is from a family farming background having grown up on a dairy farm in NE Victoria.



Sarah's contact details: 0499 077 213 or ssimpson@animalhealthaustralia.com.au

Deadline for SDIs - 14 June 2019

NABS admin would like to remind everyone that **all SDIs should be completed, reviewed by Kevin, and invoiced before 14 June 2019**. This will enable all subsidies to be paid before the end of the current funding round on 30 June 2019.

We will update the Network regarding ongoing arrangements as soon as the information becomes available. Thanks for your ongoing engagement in this time.

For those interested in the **FMD training courses in Nepal**, nomination forms are due on 01 June 2019. Contact Lisa <Lisa.Stevenson@agriculture.gov.au>.

Missed earlier newsletters? [read them here](#)

To subscribe: [join here](#)

Happy to help

Let me know anything you'd like covered here or on the website

Kevin Bell, NABS Vet Adviser

Contact at: nabsvetadviser@gmail.com / 0427 433 244

or visit www.nabsnet.com.au

Newsletter sent on Kevin's behalf from the team at Harris Park Group