



6/15/2017

Clients of the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory,

Approximately one week ago, I sent a communication about the status of our clinical pathology lab section and the associated blood testing. **It is now my great pleasure to present an update on our situation and confirm the fact that, despite the previous notification, we will in fact be able to continue to provide all testing in the clinical pathology section of the lab.**

Please allow me to provide some background information. A large number of factors, including difficulties in recruitment and retention, concerns from industry, management and the legislature, and a decreasing caseload, have contributed to the current situation in this area of the laboratory. The most urgent and pressing of these was an impending lack of qualified and available staff to perform testing. After two months of unsuccessful recruiting, we were rapidly approaching the last day of the remaining staff member, and had no choice but to notify clients of an upcoming inability to perform testing. Thankfully, and at the last minute, we hired a highly qualified and experienced employee, our existing staff graciously agreed to assist in the transition, and we expect to be able to continue clinical pathology testing and operations without interruption. In addition to the staffing situation, we have a renewed commitment to this section of the laboratory by the Department of Livestock, and it is my sincere hope that, in the future, we can serve you in this area even better than ever before. One goal for the future is to actively work towards adding new testing options, and we would certainly welcome any input or recommendations that you may have in regard to useful tests that you would like to see performed here.

As I stated previously, we are so very grateful for the support that you, our clients, provide to this laboratory. Many of you contacted us personally to voice your concerns about the potential loss of the clinical pathology section, and I would like to thank you again for your concern and support. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future, and hope that the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory can meet all of your diagnostic needs for many years to come.

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