

# Pocket Pet Health



- Online at [tvmdl.tamu.edu](http://tvmdl.tamu.edu)
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The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) is ideally suited for performing many of the diagnostic tests needed for “pocket pets.” From hematology, plasma biochemistry analysis and urinalysis to microbiologic culture, tissue aspirates, biopsies, serology and molecular diagnostic testing, TVMDL provides the practitioner with an array of tests.

TVMDL performs complete blood counts (CBC), cytology and chemistry panels on a number of pocket pet-type animals.

### **Complete blood count, reptilian**

*Specimen:* 1-2 cc lithium heparin blood or EDTA without clots and 2 thin, air-dried blood smears, unfixed and unstained at the time of specimen collection.

*Price:* \$25.00 with a \$6.00 accession fee.

*Turnaround:* The test is performed Monday-Friday in Amarillo and College Station, with results the same day.

### **Complete blood count, exotic**

*Specimen:* 1 cc EDTA blood without clots and 2 thin, air-dried blood smears, unfixed and unstained at the time of specimen collection.

*Price:* \$15.00 with a \$6.00 accession fee.

*Turnaround:* The test is performed Monday-Friday in Amarillo and College Station, with results the same day.

We routinely perform *Salmonella* monitoring on the caged pets, turtles, amphibians and reptiles that go into schools, day cares and nursing homes.

### **Culture, Salmonella**

*Specimen:* Fresh or chilled tissue, feces, feed, drag swabs, other environmental specimens

*Price:* \$15.00, and \$8.00 for each additional specimen on the same accession; \$6.00 accession fee.

*Turnaround:* The test is set up in the Amarillo and College Station labs Monday–Saturday, with results in 3-7 business days.

### **Fungal cultures**

(frogs, snakes and turtles)

*Specimen:* Tissues, aspirates, skin scrapings, hair

*Price:* \$20.00 with a \$6.00 accession fee.

*Turnaround:* The test is set in Amarillo and College Station Monday–Saturday; the test results may take up to 21 days to be reported depending on culture growth.

Additionally, many pocket pets are also susceptible to zoonotic diseases such as *Streptococcus*, *Staphylococcus*, *Listeriosis*, *Tularemia* and a number of other pathogens that can affect humans.

### **Culture, aerobic/anaerobic**

*Specimen:* Swab (ex: throat, nasal, skin)

*Price:* \$23.00 with a \$6.00 accession fee.

*Turnaround:* The test is set up in Amarillo and College Station Monday–Saturday, with results in 2-7 business days

*Note:* TVMDL does not culture for *Tularemia* or *Plague*; we send requests out to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Disease in Fort Collins, Colorado.

### **Giardia/Cryptosporidia (FA)**

*Specimen:* 2-3g fresh feces in 10% formalin

*Price:* \$16.00 with a \$6.00 accession fee.

*Turnaround:* Performed Monday-Friday in College Station with results in a minimum of 1 business day if received by 1 p.m. Performed in Amarillo Tuesday and Thursday with results in a minimum of 1 business day.

Pathologists and diagnosticians on staff are experienced in interpreting unique findings in these species and often provide additional research information to inform clients regarding the impact of findings.

### **Necropsy - Histopathology**

*Specimen:* Tumor/surgical biopsies, fixed in 10% buffered formalin

*Price:* \$65.00, price includes up to 8 tissues/organs; with a \$6.00 accession fee. Additional tissues will incur a charge of \$80.00.

*Turnaround:* Performed in Amarillo and College Station Monday-Saturday with results in 1-3 business days.

When these pets do die, it is critical that a thorough necropsy be performed for a number of reasons—their illness may be contagious, nutritional, toxic or environmental, and therefore affect other animals in the household.

### **Necropsy - avian, reptile or amphibian**

(frogs, snakes and turtles)

*Specimen:* Whole animal (amphibians and reptiles decompose quickly, so please submit as soon as possible after death)

*Price:* \$100.00 with a \$6.00 accession fee; additional animals on the same accession are \$20.00.

*Turnaround:* Necropsies are performed Monday-Saturday in Amarillo and College Station, with results the same day except for Saturday necropsies that are reported Monday.

### **Necropsy - small mammals**

(mammalian pocket pets such as sugar gliders and ferrets)

*Specimen:* Whole or partial cadaver

*Price:* \$75.00 with a \$6.00 accession fee.

*Turnaround:* Necropsies are performed in Amarillo and College Station Monday-Saturday, with results the same day except for Saturday necropsies that are reported on Monday.

TVMDL professionals can offer advice on diagnostic testing. A complete catalog of test offerings can be viewed at [tvmdl.tamu.edu](http://tvmdl.tamu.edu).

