



UC DAVIS

VETERINARY MEDICINE

California Animal Health and
Food Safety Laboratory System

CAHFS CONNECTION

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Drs. Beate Crossley & Francisco Uzal recognized at 2019 USAHA/AAVLD annual meeting

At this year's United States Animal Health Association (USAHA)/American Association of Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) annual meeting in Providence, RI, two CAHFS faculty were recognized for their individual contributions.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) presented the APHIS Administrator's Award to Dr. Beate Crossley, CAHFS Co-Director/Virologist, for her tireless work on California's vND outbreak and her many contributions to the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. This prestigious award is given out every year to an individual that has made longstanding and significant impacts on U.S. animal health.

The AAVLD presented Dr. Francisco Uzal, CAHFS-San Bernardino Branch Chief/Pathologist, with the Distinguished Service Award for his many contributions to the organization. Dr. Uzal currently serves on the editorial board for the AAVLD's *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation* and is involved with many pathology-related activities for the organization.

Congratulations to both Dr. Crossley and Dr. Uzal!



2019 AAVLD/USAHA awardees, Drs. Francisco Uzal and Beate Crossley

Bovine

Leptospirosis caused severe icterus, hematuria, bile stasis and mild nephritis in a 2-day-old Holstein heifer from a calf ranch. *Leptospira* spp. PCR was positive on the kidney. Based on lesions it was assumed that the calf was probably infected in utero in late gestation.

Squamous cell carcinoma originating in the meninges and invading the auditory nerve and foramen, and compressing the brain, caused head tilt and circling in a Holstein cow that also had a previous eye enucleation on the same side for an unreported reason.

Equine

Congenital deformity of the transverse processes of the 6th and 7th cervical vertebrae resulted in instability of the spine and wobbler-like signs in a 6 year old warmblood gelding. The horse was exhibiting dangerous behavior to himself and others for the previous six months. Concurrent degenerative joint disease was found in the sacroiliac joint.

Small Ruminants

The **endemic serotype of bluetongue virus (BTV17)** was the cause of death of a ewe found dead on pasture. On postmortem examination, both lungs failed to collapse, were purple and edematous, and had a markedly rubbery consistency. The ewe was pregnant with one mid-term fetus.





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Bronchopneumonia caused sudden collapse and death in a 3-month-old mini Nubian and a 4-month-old Pygmy goat. The pneumonia involved 50% of both lungs, from which *Mannheimia haemolytica* and *Mycoplasma* sp. were isolated. *Bibersteinia trehalosi* was also isolated from the lung of the Nubian goat.

Pig

Leptospirosis was the cause of abortion in a mid-gestation porcine fetus in a farm in which another sow had aborted a day before. Both sows were bred on the same day by different boars. *Leptospira* spp. was detected in fetal kidney by PCR, and antibodies to *Leptospira interrogans* serovar *icterohaemorrhagiae* were detected in fetal fluid. No lesions were seen in the fetus.

Endocarditis was the cause of death in a 2-year-old pot belly pig that had multiple organized thrombi adhered to the right auricular endocardium and throughout the pulmonary parenchyma. *Streptomyces violaceoruber* was isolated from the lungs.

Other Mammalian

An adult rabbit was diagnosed with an **oligodendroglioma in the brain**. The rabbit was presented with neurologic signs and was euthanized due to poor prognosis. On postmortem examination a 1.5cm diameter, slightly soft, grey and hemorrhagic mass was found in the caudal cerebrum-cerebellum junction. Large numbers of ear mites were also found in both ears.

Poultry and Other Avian

Infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT) was responsible for the death of approximately 50 of 100 backyard chickens that were euthanized over a week due to droopy eyes with ocular discharge, and lethargy. On post-mortem examination both conjunctivas were bright red, and the tracheas contained fibronecrotic membranes. The diagnosis of ILT was confirmed by PCR and histopathology.

Histomoniasis and *Streptococcus gallolyticus* infection were diagnosed in 2.5-week-old commercial turkey poults submitted for increased mortality (40-50/day for the past 5 days). At necropsy, focal liver lesions, thickened cecal walls, and marbled spleens were observed. Microscopically, focal areas of necrosis with intralesional protozoan organisms were observed in liver and cecum, and widespread necrosis with intralesional bacterial colonies was observed in spleen sections. Histomoniasis is caused by the protozoa *Histomonas meleagridis*, and can cause elevated mortality in turkeys, chickens and game birds. *Streptococcus gallolyticus*, a gram-positive bacterium, has been associated with increased mortality and splenic lesions in turkeys.

Holiday Schedule

CAHFS will be open, but will have limited service on Monday, November 11, 2019 in observance of Veteran's Day.

CAHFS will be closed on Thursday, November 28, 2019 in observance of Thanksgiving and will be open from 8 am to 12 noon on Friday, November 29, 2019 as it is a University of California holiday.

Please contact your laboratory to plan your testing needs accordingly.

