

VETERINARY PATHOLOGY GROUP

LABORATORIES VETERINARY QUALITY ASSURANCE SCHEME (VQAS) 2020

The purpose of our External Quality Assurance Scheme is to provide an independent assessment of the quality of quantitative laboratory data generated from within your veterinary practice. External Quality Assurance is separate from performing internal quality controls because it allows identification of bias (variance of the results from a reference value). Such bias, if undetected, can lead to errors in your clinical decision making when based on such results and so compromise the quality of patient care. Participation in an EQA scheme is mandatory for practices under the RCVS Practice Standards Scheme and gives you the peace of mind that your laboratory equipment and techniques are performing optimally, aiding you to provide the best in clinical care.

ADVANTAGES OF VPG VQAS

- External quality assurance in this format complies with the requirements of the RCVS Practice Standards accreditation scheme.
- Ease of use – you take the sample, analyse it and forward it to us for reference method analysis together with your results – simple and effective – we manage it for you!
- Improved analytical performance – the system does not require sample pre-preparation and outward shipment, uses real patient samples and not lyophilised or artificial samples.
- Premium Quality – reports reviewed by pathologist and scientifically trained staff. Comparative samples run through a quality assured laboratory.
- Cost effective when compared to alternatives.
- Ease of cost management – 1 fixed annual fee.
- Clear and concise reports re performance and action points for improvement.

AREAS COVERED

- Biochemistry – Canine / Feline Profile Panels.
- Haematology including FBC and blood smear examination and cell morphology.
- Endocrinology – Total T4.

COSTS

- £360 per year for monthly samples of both haematology and biochemistry i.e. £30 per sample – Gold.
- £240 per year biochemistry only i.e. £20 per sample – Bronze.
- Plus T4 – add on £132 per year i.e. additional £11 per sample – Platinum / Silver.

PROCEDURE

- Your practice signs up for 1 year subscription by completing the form below.
- VPG issues your starter information and invoices you for entire scheme – including letter of participation – NOT a certificate of acceptability at this stage.
- Your practice must submit at least 6 samples over the year to receive a quality certificate.
- VPG emails you a monthly reminder to submit sample in accordance with the practice requirements and instructions, indicating the testing needed, time lines with an attached submission form.
- Please choose an appropriate patient that you wish to test in house, take samples (allowing for enough residual sample for VPG (see table below).
 - VPG suggest testing the full analytical range of you instruments and techniques that samples are taken from a varied population of patients e.g. Pre- anaesthetic screens, renal patients, pyrexia cases
 - VPG also recommend that you submit a GOOD quality sample i.e. one free from haemolysis and lipaemia as this may complicate the result comparison.
- Your practice submits the duplicate samples along with the submission form and a copy of your in house results, including reference ranges.

PROCEDURE



Your Veterinary Practice

You choose your VQAS Option, complete application form and sign up for 1 year.

Deadline 31 January 2020



VPG send you a letter of participation and set up email reminders for your practice.

Monthly – VPG email you a reminder to take samples and submit for analysis



Your Veterinary Practice

You choose a patient requiring in-clinic blood testing and, where there is sufficient volume, submit the residual sample to VPG along with a copy of your in-clinic results.



VPG analyse your patient samples and issue you with a report by email with comments on analytical.

Upon successful completion of the VQAS scheme VPG issue you with a certificate of compliance.

MINIMUM SAMPLE REQUIREMENTS AND ANALYSIS COVERED

	Platinum Scheme	Gold Scheme	Silver Scheme	Bronze Scheme
Cost Per Annum +VAT	£492	£360	£372	£240
ANALYTES	INCLUDED	INCLUDED	INCLUDED	INCLUDED
Full Blood Count	YES	YES	NO	NO
Blood Film Morphology	YES	YES	NO	NO
Albumin	YES	YES	YES	YES
AG ratio/Globulin	YES	YES	YES	YES
ALT	YES	YES	YES	YES
Alkaline Phosphatase	YES	YES	YES	YES
Amylase	YES	YES	YES	YES
AST	YES	YES	YES	YES
Bilirubin (Total)	YES	YES	YES	YES
Calcium (Total)	YES	YES	YES	YES
Cholesterol	YES	YES	YES	YES
Creatinine	YES	YES	YES	YES
Electrolytes (Na/K/Cl)	YES	YES	YES	YES
Gamma GT	YES	YES	YES	YES
Glucose	YES	YES	YES	YES
Protein (Total)	YES	YES	YES	YES
Phosphate	YES	YES	YES	YES
Triglycerides	YES	YES	YES	YES
Urea	YES	YES	YES	YES
Total T4 (Thyroxine)	YES	NO	YES	NO
MINIMUM SAMPLE REQUIREMENTS	1 ml EDTA, blood film, + 1ml Heparin or serum + YOUR RESULTS	1 ml EDTA, blood film, + 1ml Heparin or serum + YOUR RESULTS	1ml Heparin or serum + YOUR RESULTS	1ml Heparin or serum + YOUR RESULTS

Please note that the cost of VQAS is not discountable as part of your normal laboratory spend.

ENROLMENT FORM FOR VQAS

Practice Name	
Practice Address	
Post Code	
VPG Vet Code (if known)	
Practice Contact Name	
Contact Telephone Number	
Email Address (for receipt of reminders)	
Email Address 2 (if required)	

Please tell us your type of chemistry analyser:	
Please tell us your type of haematology analyser:	
Please tell us how you perform your electrolytes:	
Please tell us how you perform your T4 analysis:	
Do you have additional branch surgeries that you wish to be included?	YES / NO
If yes, please tell us how many. VPG offer a discount of 50% for all branch surgeries.	

PLEASE TICK TYPE OF SCHEME REQUIRED:

Platinum Scheme <input type="checkbox"/>	Gold Scheme <input type="checkbox"/>	Silver Scheme <input type="checkbox"/>	Bronze Scheme <input type="checkbox"/>
Analytes included	Analytes included	Analytes included	Analytes included
Biochemistry profile	Biochemistry profile	Biochemistry profile	Biochemistry profile
Haematology & Film Examination	Haematology & Film Examination		
Total T4		Total T4	

By enrolling on your chosen scheme, you agree to VPG charging a 1yearly subscription to your account.

If you wish to be auto enrolled onto the next year's scheme, please tick here .

VPG will email you a reminder one month before enrolment.