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# Infectious Diseases Laboratory

*College of Veterinary Medicine*

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

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Fall/Winter 2019, Issue 1

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## Welcome to our first newsletter!

Twice a year, in fall and summer, we'll send you news on IDL's latest publications and presentations. We'll also alert you to upcoming changes in our availability due to conferences and holidays.

Some of our news will come from the [UGA New Materials Institute](#), for which Dr. Branson W. Ritchie serves as director of Technology Development and Implementation. In addition to its work in sustainable materials and systems design, faculty from the Institute and IDL work together to identify health issues associated with conventional plastics.

We hope you'll enjoy learning more about our work.

Thank you for your business. We look forward to continuing our partnership!

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## INFECTIOUS DISEASES LAB

### Advancing veterinary medicine for 30+ years

For more than 30 years, the Infectious Diseases Laboratory (IDL) has used advanced technology to provide fast and accurate diagnoses on a variety of diseases that impact the health of companion animals, exotic animals and wildlife. IDL also collaborates with clinicians and researchers worldwide in scientific studies.

IDL is staffed with motivated and highly qualified faculty and laboratory personnel who have a combined 100+ years of experience in developing, validating and performing diagnostic technologies. This team is also available to answer any client questions regarding test results and to offer advice on how to manage a case.



## Redesigned website

IDL's website got a new look over the summer. You can still reach our site by using the web address "[vet.uga.edu/IDL](https://vet.uga.edu/IDL)". Our submission forms and contact information are now located on the "[Resources](#)" page.

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE IDL WEBSITE](#)

## Service and shipping announcements

### Nov. 9–13

Our Zoo and Exotic Animal Pathology Service (ZEAPS) team will be at a conference, which may delay histology results. Necropsies, and processing of biopsies or STAT samples will resume Nov. 14.

For emergencies, call 706-542-8092.

*Note that Dr. McHale is presenting at this conference. See "Presentations and Manuscripts" (below) for more information.*

### Days we are closed

IDL is closed for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. We are open during the rest of the holiday weeks, but with fewer staff and reduced phone coverage.

### Dec. 25–Jan. 1

On the days we are open, IDL staff will focus on processing diagnostic tests. The

experience some delays in receiving results.

During this time, our pathologists are available for emergencies only. For emergencies, call 706-542-8092.

### Shipping

All shipping services may be slower during the holidays and statistically more delivery problems occur. Please allow extra time for your samples to arrive. In December, please:

**ship histopathology cases  
and/or elective screening samples  
to arrive  
before Dec. 19 or after Jan. 2**

### *When we receive packages:*

UPS and FedEx received Dec. 23, 24, 26, 27, 30 and 31

U.S. Postal Service deliveries **ARE NOT** received from Dec. 25–Jan. 1



## Mystery solved

It took us more than 5 years to find out what was affecting San Francisco's famous flock of conures, and we had to develop our own assay—which detected bromethalin, a common rat poisoning. Our study was published in PLOS ONE earlier this year.

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## Presentations and manuscripts

On Nov. 11, between 7p and 9p, our co-director and ZEAPS team member **Dr. Brittany McHale** will present “A Parasitology Mystery in a Meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*)” case at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

Two presentations involving our team were made recently at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians. **Dr. McHale** presented a case on ferret (*Mustela putorius furo*) pneumonia; the second case, presented by Dr. Sarah Linn, a pathology resident at The Ohio State University, was on advanced technologies used to detect a unique adenovirus in a Pacific parrotlet (*Forpus coelestis*).

Our ZEAPS team member, **Dr. Rita McManamon**, is a coauthor on [“Fatal \*Sarcocystis falcatula\* Infection in Three Penguins,” which was recently published in \*Frontiers in Veterinary Science\*.](#)

**Dr. Ritchie** and our associate research scientist, **Dr. Chris Gregory**, are coauthors on [“Necrotizing Ventriculitis in Fledgling Chimney Swifts \(\*Chaetura Pelagica\*\),” which was published this summer in \*Veterinary Pathology\*.](#)

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Ingestion of degrading ocean plastics likely poses a substantial risk to the survival of post-hatchling sea turtles because the particles can lead to blockages and nutritional deficiencies, according to new research from [Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center](#) and the University of Georgia. The study also suggests that micronizing plastics could have tremendous negative implications for the ocean's food web.

*Photo provided by the Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center.*

**READ MORE**

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