



# PHOENIX FLYER



November 2006

Issue 6

## Tube Abbreviations on Test Request Form

As a client of Phoenix Central Laboratory, you have undoubtedly utilized our Test Request (TR) forms when submitting your samples. The form utilizes abbreviations to indicate tube types for specific samples. The following is a list of tube abbreviations and a brief description of each:



- **RTT**- red top tube, contains silica clot activator sprayed on inside of tube.
- **SST**- serum separator tube, contains gel on bottom of tube, silica clot activator on side of tube
- **LTT**- lavender top tube, contains K<sub>2</sub> (potassium) EDTA
- **GTT**- grey top tube, contains potassium oxalate sodium fluoride, may be used for plasma glucoses only
- **BTT**- blue top tube, contains buffered sodium citrate. Primarily used for PT and PTT.
- **FDP**- fibrinogen-degradation product, contains soybean trypsin. May be used for FDP test only. The blood in this tube will clot.

- **GRNT**- green top tube, contains lithium heparin; used primarily for avian and exotics.
- **M-GRN**- microtainer-green top tube is a sodium heparin additive tube
- **M-LTT**- microtainer-lavender top tube is an EDTA additive tube
- **SWAB**- culturettes used primarily for cultures
- **M-SST**- microtainer-serum separator tube
- **HEP CAP TUBES**- heparinized capillary tubes for avian and small exotic samples
- **SLIDES**- slides made in clinic to go along with LTT for CBC or slides made for cytological evaluation
- **CRITS**- Hematocrit (PCV) tubes filled in clinic, most often used for avians

If you have any questions, or require additional clarification, contact our customer service department at (425) 355-5252 or (800) 347-0043.

## Equine SDH Now Available

In early October, Phoenix Lab began offering in-house Sorbitol Dehydrogenase (SDH) for equines, and has added the test to all equine chemistry panels.

SDH is a measurement of liver function in horses and cattle, and is more specific than AST for detecting hepatocyte injury. It is not typically used to detect hepatocyte injury in dogs and cats.

If you have any questions please contact our customer service department at (425) 355-5252 or (800) 347-0043.

## Fall/Winter 2006 Holiday Schedule

With the upcoming holiday season rapidly approaching, Phoenix Lab will be closed in observance of the traditional holidays. We will be closed on the following dates:

- Thursday, November 23rd—Closed
- Monday, December 25—Closed
- Monday, January 1, 2007—Closed

Although we will be closed on the holidays, there will be someone available to answer our phones between the hours of 8:00am and 11:00am.

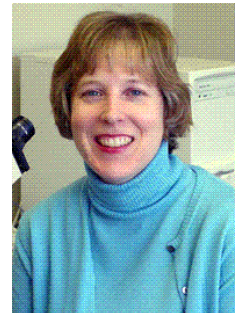
Normal business hours will resume on Friday, November 24th, Tuesday, December 26th, and Tuesday, January 2nd.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season!

## Farewell Dr. Kristin Henson, Diplomate, ACVP

In October, Dr. Kristin Henson, Diplomate, ACVP bid farewell to Phoenix Central Lab in order to be closer to her family on the East Coast.

Dr. Henson's professionalism and contributions will be missed, and we wish her the best of luck in her new adventures.



We are also pleased to announce that Dr. Chris Mesher, Diplomate, ACVP has agreed to provide pathology consultations on a full-time basis, having previously only been available part-time. With the addition of Dr. Mesher to our full-time staff, there should be no delays in our turn around time for results.

## Samples Held—No Test Requested

The Laboratory deals with 20-30 samples each day that arrive without directions/tests requested.

In the past, we would automatically run a Chemistry Screen on any SST (Serum Separator Tube), and a CBC with slide preparation for any LTT (Lavender Top Tube). The next morning a call would be

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## Transporting Samples

As part of the service we provide our clients, Phoenix Lab employs a network of couriers in Washington, Oregon and Alaska dedicated to safely transporting your samples to the lab. Unlike some laboratories who hire contract drivers, our drivers are employees of Phoenix Lab who care about our clients and have a vested interest in providing a high level of service.

In the Puget Sound area of Washington, pick-ups are provided twice daily, Monday through Friday to most clinics, with same-day reporting for most A.M. samples.

We also provide alternative options for remote clinics and those accessible only by ferry or airplane. For remote clients, U.S. Postal Service prepaid mailers are provided, and with some of our remote Alaska clients, pre-paid 2nd day air labels are used instead. When using the Postal Service for the first time, we recommend a "dry run" in order to determine the approximate travel time to the laboratory.

All clients with nightly pick-up requirements are put on a regular pick-up schedule, whereby a courier will stop by each night, Monday through Saturday. These clients do not need to contact the lab for a

pick-up. Clients with less frequent needs are asked to call in for pick-ups.

Cut-off times for call-ins are required for some areas connecting with airlines or other carriers. Our customer service department has a record of these cut-off times. STAT pick-up service and testing are available to many of our clients in the Puget Sound area, but may be subject to an additional charge.

Sunday pick-up service is available for emergency clinics and day practices with routine Sunday business hours along the Interstate-5 corridor. Please call customer service for cut-off times.

And finally, in consideration of our clients convenience and safety, all Phoenix Lab couriers are required to wear either company identification badges or clothing bearing the Phoenix Lab logo.

If you have any questions, concerns, or require a change in pick-up services, please contact our customer service department at (425) 355-5252 or toll-free (800) 347-0043.

## Laboratory Newsletters, Alerts and Directory Updates

Periodically the Laboratory releases printed material to give updates on new tests available, testing protocol, price changes, or items of interest to the veterinary community.

Reprints can be requested through our Customer Service Department or on our website [www.pclv.net](http://www.pclv.net).

### A Quick Note....

A comment has been added on all chemistries that have also requested a Potassium Bromide. The comment states "Chloride result may be falsely elevated with Potassium Bromide (KBr) therapy."

## Samples Held cont'd

placed to the clinic to confirm the tests needed, and these would then be performed.

Beginning November 2006, a change was made to this procedure. We will now hold all samples that arrive without orders/tests requested. The SSTs will be centrifuged and serum taken off cells, and blood smears will be made from the LTT sample. The tubes will be processed further when the order is received from the clinic.

This will result in a slight delay in reporting results. But, due to the limited sample volume, we feel this is better serving you and your clients.



**Happy Holidays!**