

Policy

Subject: Veterinary pathology in medical laboratories
Approval Date: October 2002, November 2006, November 2009, November 2013,
January 2016, February 2020
Review Date: February 2024
Review By: BPPQ
Number: 12/2002

It is understood that circumstances occur, particularly in country areas, in which a medical pathologist or medical laboratory scientist (not qualified or registered as a veterinary surgeon) may be requested to test and report on veterinary specimens.

While the relevant legislation varies between jurisdictions, generally anyone other than a person recognised under an Act for the registration of veterinary surgeons (or an “approved” corporation, firm or association similarly registered under specified conditions), are prohibited from practising veterinary surgery. The definition of Veterinary Surgery generally encompasses the diagnosis of diseases in and injuries to animals, including tests performed on animals for diagnostic purposes.

Accordingly, the College advises Fellows, Faculty Fellows and Affiliates providing any veterinary pathology services to consult their own legal advisers regarding the legal implications of this practice.