

**CASE REPORT: The valuable contribution of Surveillance activity to veterinary undergraduate teaching**

This summer a Blonde d'Aquitaine bull was sent for surveillance PM to the University of Surrey Veterinary Pathology Centre.



The final year Veterinary Medicine students were also in the centre for their pathology rotation, at this time, and were invited to attend this PM investigation carried out by our VIO (Veterinary Investigation Officer), Dr. Pernille Jorgensen.

The students had the chance to follow the case through each of its phases including:

- History investigation
- *Post-mortem* examination
- Sample collections
- Further laboratory investigations.

Dr. Jorgensen also highlighted the role of the VIO in surveillance, his/her impact and their importance in animal health and welfare.

The experience was very well received by the students with multiple requests for additional surveillance cases during their respective rotations. Surveillance cases are turning out to be a popular choice among undergraduate vet students for their final PM case report – a requirement for final assessment of this rotation.

The students' increased appreciation of surveillance was expressed in the feedback we received on the rotation. For example:

“We would really like a session dedicated to surveillance PME's, why they are done, on which animals they are performed and their cost, conditions, requirements, etc.”

“We would really appreciate it if we could include in future rotations a section on surveillance case review with a few cases.”

“A couple of surveillance cases rather than just one and more time spent on it would be appreciated.”

In response to this, we did prepare and deliver a session on surveillance including case reviews and diagnostic microbiology tests. This will be rolled out for all future pathology rotations.

In addition, the students were encouraged to assist the VIO with additional surveillance cases referred to University of Surrey Veterinary Pathology Centre during their rotation period.

The surveillance activity carried out at the Veterinary Pathology Centre offers a great teaching and learning opportunity for all veterinary students. During these sessions, they not only experience the VIO work, but get to use and test their PME skills, as well as their knowledge, decision making and problem solving skills. As a result of this experience, they also better understand the role of the vet, both as a referral vet and VIO, and the importance of farm animal disease investigation.

Practical involvement seems to be one of the most engaging and effective ways to teach the importance and the impact of conducting surveillance to monitor and protect the health and welfare of national livestock.

---

## FARM ANIMAL PATHOLOGY AND DISEASE SURVEILLANCE TEAM

**VPC Director:** Prof. Roberto La Ragione

**Pathologists**

Dr. Barbara Bacci  
Dr. Alex Stoll

**Veterinary Investigation Officers**

Dr. Pernille Jorgensen (Service Lead)  
Dr. David Harwood

**Named Veterinary Surgeon and  
Pathology Rotations Coordinator**

Dr. Anna Slaviero

**Epidemiologists/Consultants**

Prof. Alex Cook  
Pete Sewell

**Surveillance Project Manager:** Julia Gerhold

**VPC Administrator:** Louise Ryan

**Receptionist:** Sue Grover-Smith

**Technical Services Manager:** Jon Cooper

**Post-mortem Facilities Manager:** Tom Hussey

**Technical Staff:** Kathryn Gowan, Emily Tubb, Mike Chaplin, Keith Hiley, Alice Robinson

**Pathology Laboratory Manager:** Abbe Martyn

**Histology Technical Staff:** Lucia Lozano White, Ella May

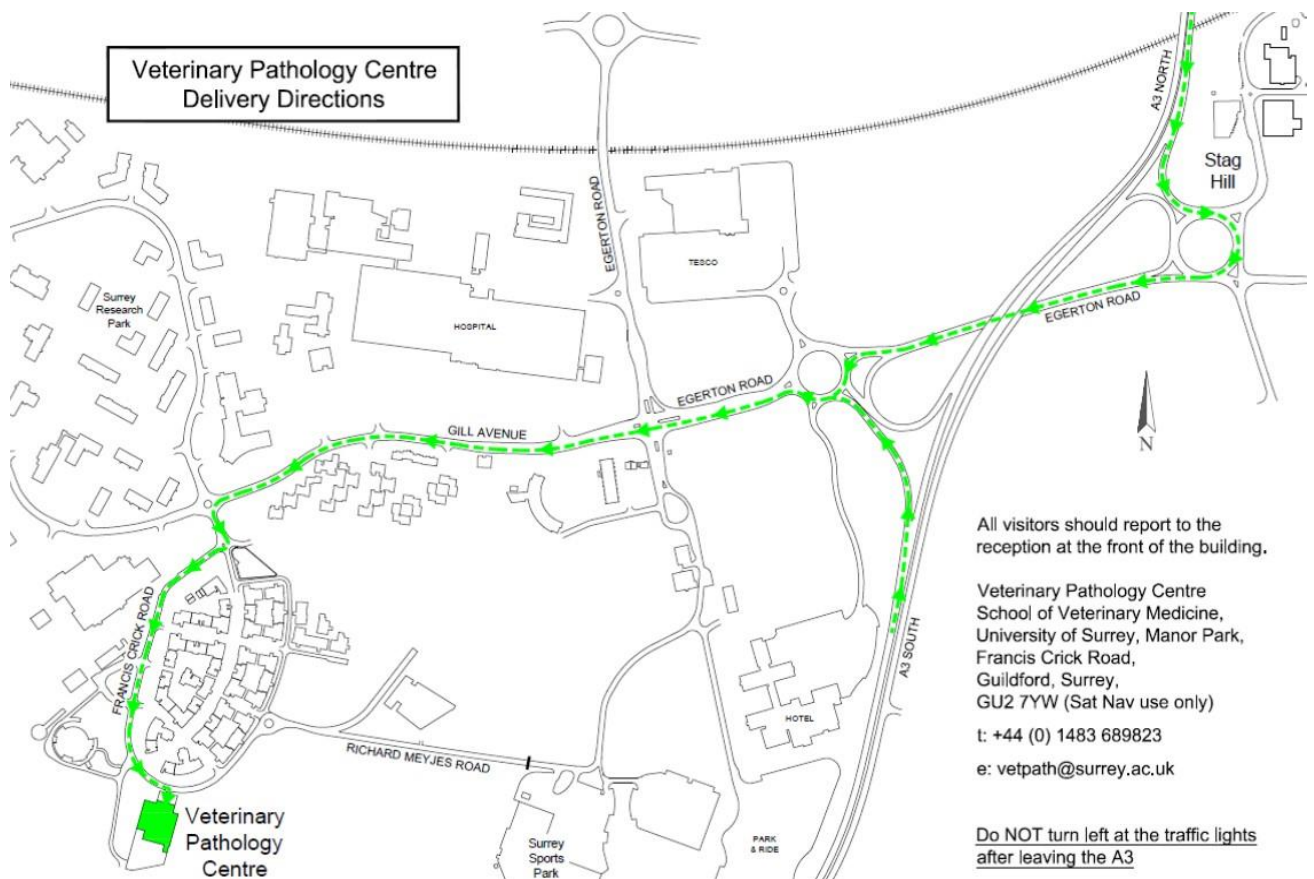
**Business Development Manager:** Rachel Hargreaves

## SURREY VETERINARY PATHOLOGY CENTRE



Surrey Veterinary Pathology Centre (left) and the main *post-mortem* room (right)

### HOW TO FIND US



If using a Sat Nav, please follow postcode: GU2 7YW and do **NOT** turn left at the traffic lights after leaving the A3.

<http://www.surreyvetpathology.com>