Awanui Veterinary

# Pathology in focus




**March 2026**

awanuivets.co.nz

# Antech

Smarter Diagnostics. Better Care.™

# Proud to be partnering with Antech


Awanui Veterinary is now the exclusive distributor of Antech's point-of-care (POC) diagnostic testing solutions in New Zealand.

## Local expertise. Global innovation. Choice at every step.

Supported by Awanui's local expertise and nationwide laboratory network, together we bring globally proven diagnostic technology with a flexible and workflow-led approach to point-of-care diagnostics.

Clinics can select from a broad range of biochemistry, haematology and immunodiagnostics platforms – tailored to the individual clinic and scalable across diverse practice groups.

## Find out more

Talk to us about whether your current point-of-care testing (POCT) setup is working effectively.

Call **0800 474 225**
or visit **awanuivets.co.nz/poct**

## Antech Point-of-care systems

### Element DC5X™& DCX™ – Clinical Chemistry

Shared-platform chemistry analysers delivering fast, accurate results with flexible single-sample or up to 5-sample workflow to support any type of practice.

### Element HT5+™& HT5™ – Haematology

Five-part differential haematology in 60–90 seconds, with optional reticulocyte analysis on HT5+™.

### Element i+™ – Immunodiagnostics

In-clinic immunoassay testing including endocrine, inflammatory markers and access to Nu.Q® canine cancer screening.

### EUROLyser CUBE-VET – Specialty Chemistry

Compact analyser providing in-clinic access to selected veterinary biomarkers including SDMA and Phenobarbital.

### trūRapid™ FIV/FeLV – Rapid Testing

Simple, point-of-care FIV/FeLV screening during consults.

### Element AIM™ – Faecal & Urinalysis

Fully automated faecal and urine analysis with minimal hands-on time.

### Nu.Q® – Canine Cancer Screening

The only in-clinic canine cancer risk screening test, delivering results during routine wellness and senior checks.

# Parasight® testing - for lower epg

Parasite testing in cattle has been limited by one key constraint: lower eggs per gram (epg) requirements. As a result, cattle parasite burdens have often been under-detected, under-monitored and/or managed using blanket drenching, rather than evidence-based decisions.

That approach is becoming increasingly risky.

## Why lower EPG testing now matters in NZ cattle

Anthelmintic resistance is no longer just a sheep issue. Evidence of emerging drench resistance in cattle is growing, particularly in systems relying on repeated, non-targeted treatments. Key cattle parasites such as Ostertagia can impact production at low egg counts and are easily missed with higher EPG detection thresholds.

Cattle have traditionally been difficult to assess accurately because:

- Egg output is often low, even in the presence of meaningful parasite burden
- Standard McMaster detection methods can lack the resolution required to support confident decision-making
- Limited usefulness of routine FECs in cattle parasite programs.

Lower EPG testing addresses this gap.

## What benefit does lower EPG testing offer?

By reducing the detection threshold to 6 epg in cattle and 12 epg in sheep, lower EPG testing allows veterinarians to:

- Detect parasite presence earlier
- Differentiate truly low burdens from false negatives
- Make more informed decisions around if, when and what to drench
- Support targeted treatment strategies that slow resistance development.

## When to use Parasight® testing?

Parasight® has the ability to detect 6 epg (horse and cattle) and 12 epg (sheep).

This lower detection rate is recommended for animals like cattle, where increasing the sensitivity of testing gives more power to the result. Especially with those lower egg-producing parasites like *Ostertagia* spp..

Parasight® testing is however limited by its inability to detect a wide range of parasites. It is capable of detecting the main nematodes but lacks the ability to detect *Coccidia* and *Strongyloides*. Due to this, its use in younger animals (calves, foals, lambs) and sick animals is not recommended. In these cases, a standard McMaster faecal egg count is still recommended, as our experienced technical staff can identify a large range of parasites microscopically.

- Sample required: Faeces (6 grams minimum) – individual and composite testing available
- Turn-around time: 2-3 days
- Species: cattle, sheep and horses
- Pricing: Individual samples $28.00; Composite 1-10 samples $57.65 (ex. GST)

**From early April you will be able to bundle this test with our new Gastrointestinal Nematode (GIN) PCR. Stay tuned for more details!**

If you require any further information, please contact us on 0800 474 225 or vets@awanuigroup.co.nz.

# The histiocytoma that read the textbook!

**Sandy Weltan**

The description of a histiocytoma in a well known pathology textbook is as follows:

*"Cutaneous histiocytoma is a benign skin tumour that originates from the epidermal Langerhans cell and is predominantly a solitary tumour of young dogs that undergoes spontaneous regression. Histiocytoma cells may migrate to regional lymph nodes; lymphadenopathy will regress along with the primary lesion."*

In practice, lymphadenopathy is rarely seen, so this one needs special mention.

A 12-week old, female terrier presented with two lesions. One was a 1cm raised round ulcerated firm lump on left bridge of nose, which had been there approximately two weeks. The other was a 2cm diameter spherical soft lump at left angle of jaw which had been noticed two days prior (Figure 1).

Fine needle aspirates were submitted from both masses. In the smears from the nose, the background consisted of homogenous, moderately basophilic material and the cellularity was high in most of the smears with variable cell preservation. The smear with the best cell preservation consisted of round cells which had a moderate amount of pale basophilic cytoplasm with distinct cytoplasmic borders. The nuclei were round, oval, irregular or indented and contained finely stippled chromatin with indistinct nucleoli. Small numbers of cytoplasmic fragments were present in the background with occasional small lymphocytes (Figure 2).

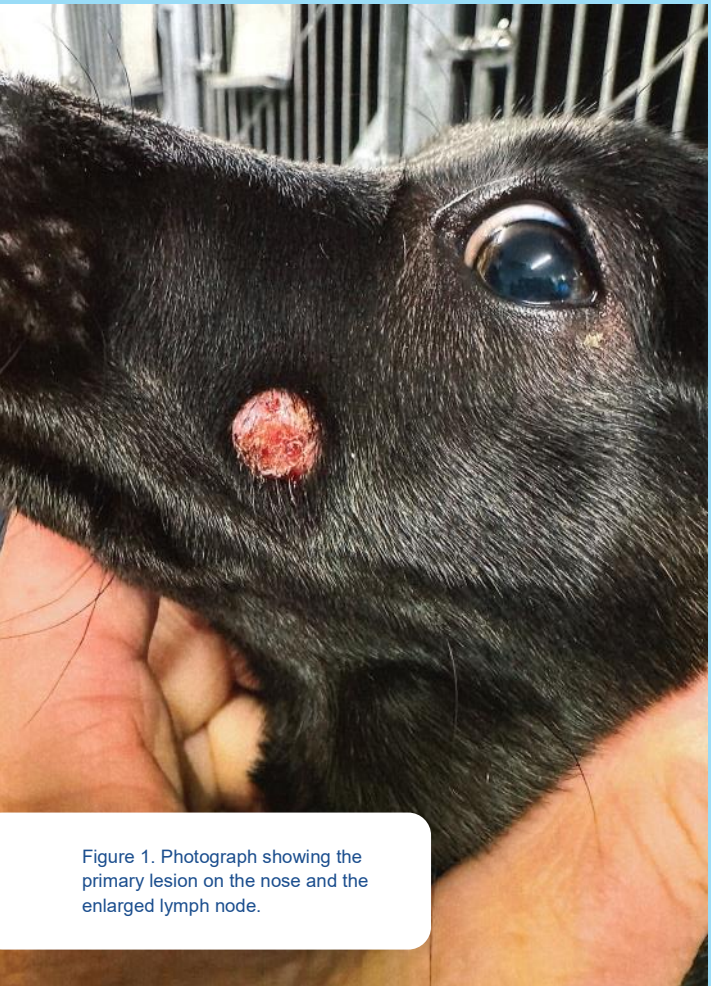


Figure 1. Photograph showing the primary lesion on the nose and the enlarged lymph node.

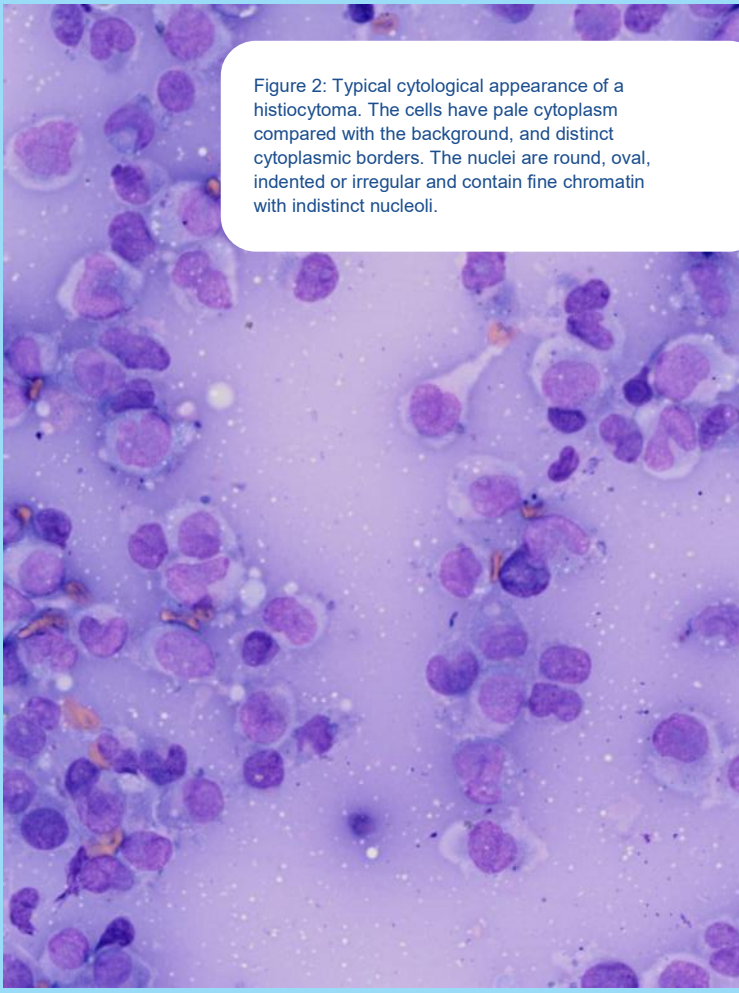


Figure 2: Typical cytological appearance of a histiocytoma. The cells have pale cytoplasm compared with the background, and distinct cytoplasmic borders. The nuclei are round, oval, indented or irregular and contain fine chromatin with indistinct nucleoli.

In the smears from mass at the angle of the jaw, there was a mixed population of lymphocytes and plasma cells with small, medium and large lymphocytes. There were also large numbers of histiocytic cells. They showed marked moderate pleomorphism and had a moderate amount of pale to mildly basophilic and variably vacuolated cytoplasm with distinct cytoplasmic borders.

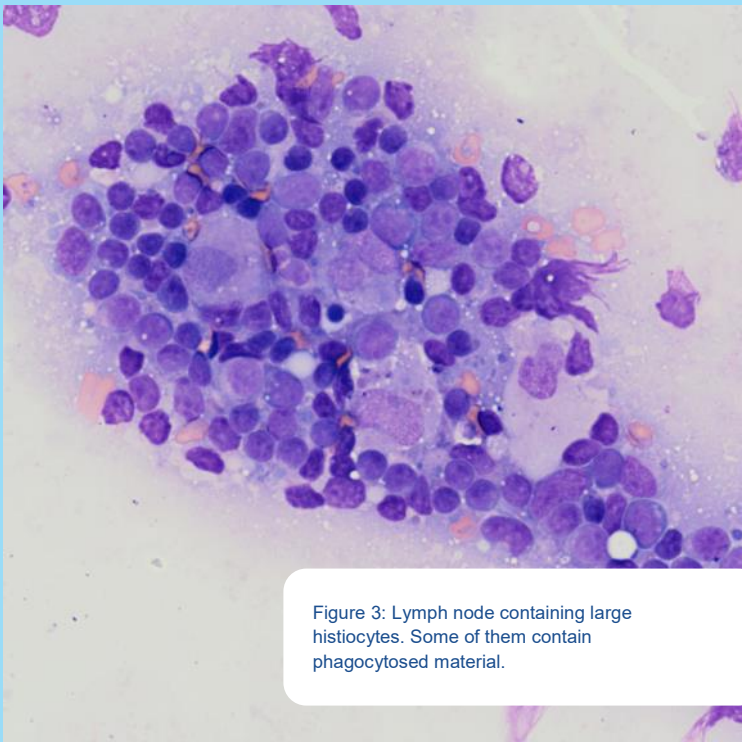


Figure 3: Lymph node containing large histiocytes. Some of them contain phagocytosed material.

The nuclei were mostly oval to indented and some of the cells were cytophagic, containing phagocytosed lymphocytes (Figure 3).

The highest incidence of cutaneous histiocytoma is in dogs under two years of age. Histiocytomas most commonly occur on the head, with the pinna being the most frequently affected site, although tumours can occur on many other areas of the body. Infiltration by small lymphocytes, which are cytotoxic CD8+ T cells, signals the beginning of spontaneous regression. The incidence of spontaneous regression decreases with increasing age and in dogs over three years of age, other round cell tumours need to be considered as differential diagnoses. In truth, the incidence of migration of histiocytoma cells to lymph nodes is uncommon, so this was an unusual case.

References:
1. Goldschmidt MH, Goldschmidt KH: Tumours of the skin and soft tissues. In: *Tumours in domestic animals*. 4 edn. Edited by Meuten DJ. Ames, Iowa: Blackwell; 2017: 315-377.
2. Raskin RE: Skin and Subcutaneous Tissues. In: *Canine and Feline Cytology A Colour Atlas and Interpretation Guide*. 3 edn. Edited by Raskin RE, Meyer DJ. St Louis: Elsevier; 2016: 34-90.
3. Moore PF, Schrenzel MD, Affolter VK, Olivry T, Naydan D: Canine cutaneous histiocytoma is an epidermotropic Langerhans cell histiocytosis that expresses CD1 and specific beta 2-integrin molecules. *Am J Pathol* 1996, 148(5):1699-1708.

# Autumn trace element testing

For production animal veterinarians, autumn is the time to remind farmers about the importance of trace element testing leading up to winter.

Tissue and serum sampling in the autumn or at drying off, provides an opportunity to ensure trace elements and magnesium concentrations are appropriate heading into winter, and to assess any effects of sporidesmin on the liver. Options for sample collection include collecting liver and/or blood samples on-farm, or getting liver samples collected at the slaughter plant (updated works submission forms to be sent with animals, can be found on our website).

We recommend on-farm collection of liver biopsies for trace element testing as it provides guaranteed animal selection and identification, better traceability of samples, is more cost effective for the farmer and provides more accurate results due to the controlled handling and transport of the samples. It also provides an opportunity to discuss the farm's animal health strategies more generally. For more detailed information on liver biopsy sampling, read our information sheet.

Liver biopsy performed by a veterinarian is Awanui Veterinary's preferred sample type.

Interpreting trace element results are a whole lot easier with cumulative reporting and regional trends on reports.

- **Cumulative reporting** can be used to identify seasonal trends within the same year or previous years specific to that farm. This enables veterinarians to quickly track results (without having to find previous trace element reports), and advise on strategic supplementation. It also provides a more user friendly, visual reference for farmers that can be used to track changes over time and align supplementation with management decisions.
- **Regional trending** enables farmers and veterinarians to at a glance see how their farm compares in relation to other farms within their region. This feature can be used as a tool to highlight the importance of regular testing, and the existence of any potential or possible local toxicities or deficiencies.

*Note: Regional data is dependent on accurate identification of the species, age and location, so please supply as many details as possible on submissions so you and your farming clients can make the most of this exciting innovation.*

The recommended sample size for liver copper is 10+ samples for all species.

Like much diagnostic testing, there is no one size fits all solution. We have some great resources that can help you make testing choices:

> Autumn essentials information
> Seasonal cheat sheet
> Mineral Check booklet

Still stuck? Our expert team of pathologists is always available to help. Call us today on 0800 474 225.

# 2026 Pricing update

## - new price list effective 16 March

To continue investing in diagnostic capability, clinical expertise and service reliability for veterinary practices across the motu, we periodically review our pricing.

As part of this review, updated pricing will take effect from 16 March 2026. This change reflects our ongoing investment in services and capabilities that support your practice, alongside rising costs across the broader diagnostics operating environment.

To support a smooth transition, please note the following:

- A Flipbook version of the updated prices for use in clinic is available by selecting the link below. The Flipbook can be searched, pages bookmarked, and you can download a PDF version if required. Save a link to it in your browser for ease of access.
- Clients using ezyVet with our SDI integration will have their PMS updated centrally and will not need to update locally. All other ezyVet users will need to update manually. If you wish to change to the SDI integration, please contact ezyVet directly.
- Updated pricing for consumables will be available via our online store from 16 March 2026 (a user account is required to place online orders).
- As part of Awanui's Toitū carbonreduce certification, printed price books will only be available in limited quantities (on request from your local laboratory).
- This review does not affect any contracted pricing. Quotes that have been provided before this date will be honoured until the stated expiry date.

Find links below to CSV files for updating your PMS:

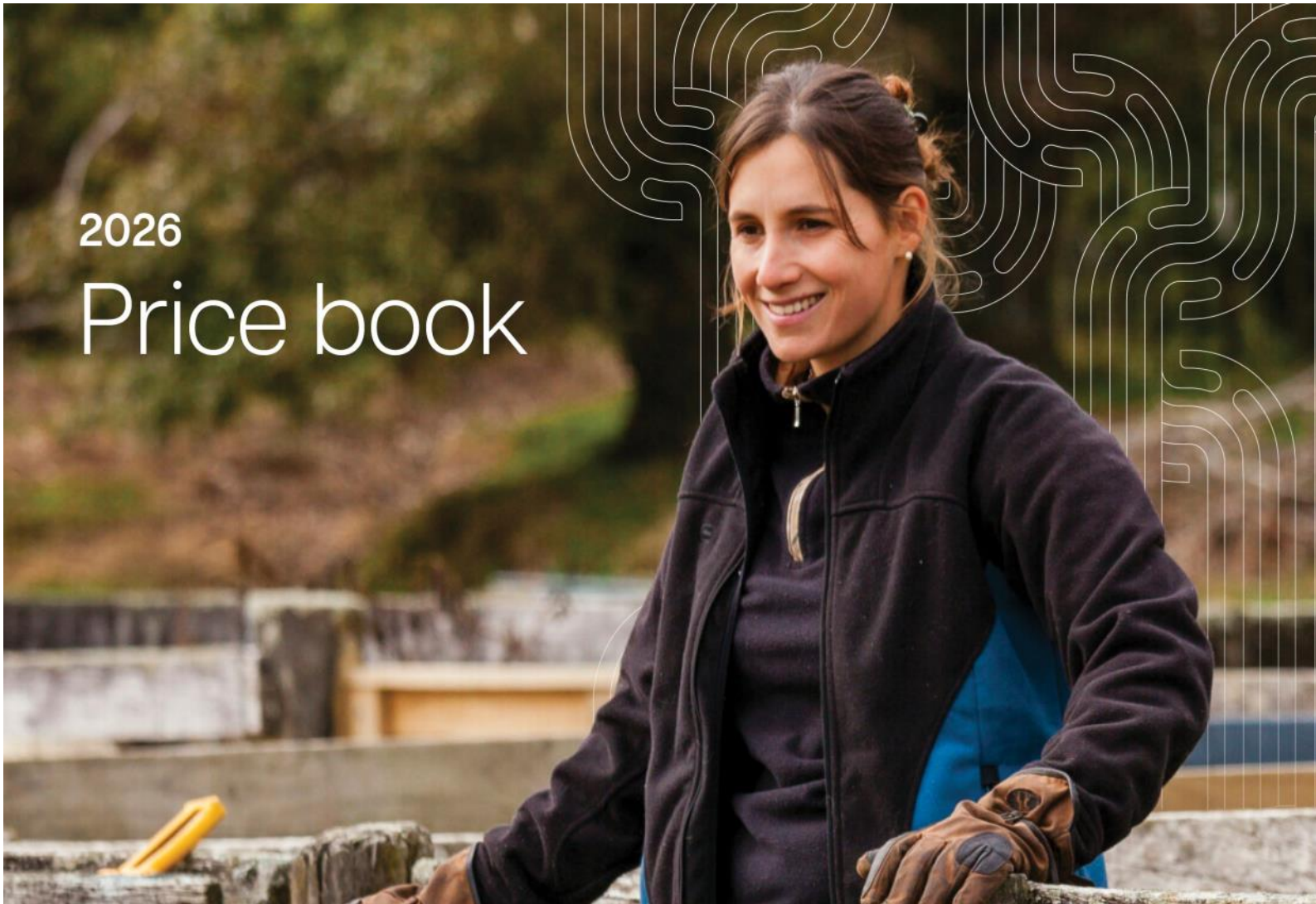
> Companion animal

> Production animal

> Equine

We genuinely value your business and appreciate the trust you place in Awanui Veterinary to support your work. If you have any questions, your local laboratory team will be happy to assist.

Access the 2026 Price book here.



# Introducing JiYe - our newest pathologist

We are very pleased to welcome JiYe Ahn to our team. JiYe is an anatomical pathologist based in our Auckland laboratory.

JiYe obtained her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in Korea before moving to New Zealand where she completed her MVS in conservation medicine at Massey University. For her MVS she was involved with the Hector's dolphin DNA collection project with Kaikoura Ocean Research Institute.

She has completed an anatomical pathology residency at the University of Guelph in Canada, and finished her Doctor of Veterinary Science. She is due to sit her board examinations in 2026.

JiYe returned to New Zealand at the start of 2026 and will be working part time until her examinations are complete.

# In brief

- **Facial eczema:** Our lab-portal is very active with regional spore counts being submitted daily. Data is visible in real-time and no login is required to view it. If you wish to submit data (veterinary clinics only), simply register for a user account. Access the Lab-Portal here.
- **Hot weather:** Please remember to keep samples cool after collection and during transport to the laboratory. The main exceptions to the "keep it cool rule" are blood/cytology smears, histology samples and faeces for larval culture. Please leave these at room temperature prior to transport. See this 'How To' guide on our website for more information.
- **Public holidays:** All of our laboratories will be closed 3-6 April (inclusive) for Easter, Monday 27 April for ANZAC day, and Monday 1 June for the King's Birthday.

# Contact us

- contacting Awanui Veterinary couldn't be easier.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