

To the clients of the Heeke ADDL,

I would like to discuss two items pertaining to the Heeke ADDL facility and the lab's capability to accept samples for necropsy.

First, on or soon after April 22, we expect to start a necropsy HVAC system replacement project (HVAC serving both mammalian and avian necropsy rooms). This project will require contractors to have access to the necropsy labs for approximately 6-8 weeks. During this project, the Heeke ADDL will have limited access to necropsy areas, and we will be restricting necropsy examinations to Mondays and Tuesdays. Samples received for post-mortem examination on other days of the week will be refrigerated until they can be examined later. The Heeke ADDL will only have facilities to handle birds and small mammals (100 lbs or less) during this time. This HVAC replacement is in response to requirements given by the national organization that accredits our laboratory—the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) – during their 2014 accreditation site visit.

The second item I would like to discuss is the electric hoist at the Heeke ADDL. As many of you know, the electric hoist was deemed unsafe by a third party contractor, and subsequently by Purdue University engineers, during the summer of 2018 and has been out of use since that time. I understand that this inconvenience has been a burden to clients with large animals and their veterinarians, and I apologize for this lapse in service. We at the ADDL are currently working with other entities at Purdue to identify a safe and effective alternative that will allow examinations of large animals to proceed. While we hope to have this issue resolved soon, there is currently no estimated date for return to service. Thank you for your patience.

As always, feel free to call the Heeke laboratory at 812.678.3401 with any questions or to speak with me about any concerns you may have.

Thank you for your continued support of the ADDL,



Grant N. Burcham  
Assistant director and veterinary diagnostician, Heeke ADDL