Blood Cell Guide

Regenerative Response
- Mild polychromasia
- Marked polychromasia
- Rapid stain – polychromasia
- NMB – canine reticulocytes
- nMB – feline reticulocytes

Immune Mediated Haemolytic Anaemia (IMHA)
- Spherocytes with no polychromasia
- Spherocytes with polychromasia
- Ghost cells
- Agglutination (50x)
- Rouleaux (50x)

Other Poikilocytosis
- Canine – two Heinz bodies
- Rapid stain – Feline – 3 indistinct (arrows) and 2 obvious Heinz bodies
- NMB – Heinz bodies
- Eccentrocytes**
- Blister cell and keratocyte

Miscellaneous Morphology
- Crenation
- Acanthocytes
- Burr cell
- Schistocyte
- Basophilic stippling

Infectious Agents*
- Mycoplasma haemofelis
- Mycoplasma haemocanis
- Babesia gibsoni
- Babesia canis
- Anaplasmaphagocytophilum

White Blood Cells
- Normal neutrophil
- Band neutrophil
- Neutrophil – mild toxicity
- Neutrophil – moderate toxicity
- Neutrophil – marked toxicity**

- Normal monocyte
- Normal canine eosinophil
- Normal feline eosinophil
- Normal canine basophil
- Normal feline basophil

- Normal lymphocyte
- Lymphocyte – mild reactivity
- Lymphocyte – moderate reactivity
- Lymphocyte – moderate reactivity
- Lymphocyte – marked reactivity

Platelets
- Normal platelet count (50x)
- Low platelet count (50x)
- Platelet clump (50x)
- Normal-sized and large platelets
- Large atypical platelet

*Infectious agents commonly found on bone marrow, such as Leishmania, are not shown on this chart.
Making a Quality Blood Film
Complement your in-house haematology with a high-quality blood film

1. Place a small drop of fresh, well-mixed anticoagulated blood on a clean glass slide approximately 2 cm from one end of the slide.
2. Place a clean glass "spreader" slide in front of the drop of blood at an approximate 30° angle to the blood-film slide.*
3. Back the "spreader" slide into the drop of blood.
4. Let the blood spread along the contact line between the two slides; this should take place quickly.
5. With a steady fluid movement, move the spreader slide down the entire blood-film slide, maintaining the angle without lifting the spreader slide. Blood from the drop will follow the spreader slide, placing a thin film on the other slide. The blood film should be 3 – 4 cm in length.
6. Let the blood film air-dry.†

* For specimens with low haemoblasts (anaemia), increase the angle between the slides to make a thicker blood film. For specimens with high haemoblasts (dehydration, polychaemia, etc.), decrease the angle between the slides to make a thinner blood film.
† Ensure that the newly prepared blood film is completely dry before staining is performed. If humidity is high, dry the slide with a slow-speed fan without moisture or heat, or simply wave the blood film in the air. Do not blow-dry.

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