

Comparative Ocular Pathology Laboratory of Wisconsin - COPLOW School of Veterinary Medicine -University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Comparative Ocular Pathology Laboratory of Wisconsin (COPLOW) is a mail-in ocular pathology service that provides specialized ocular pathology diagnosis, interpretation and consultation specifically designed to be useful for board certified veterinary ophthalmologists. The lab receives around 4,000 cases per year from veterinarians around the country and the world and has more than 50,000 cases on its database. The lab counts with three board certified veterinary pathologist on its staff: Dr. Gillian Shaw, clinical instructor, Dr. Richard Dubielzig, the founder of the lab and currently serving as a volunteer pathologist, and Dr. Leandro Teixeira, the current director of the laboratory.

Our mission:

- **Clinical:** Approximately 50% of ACVO Diplomates and practicing veterinary ophthalmologists around the world use the service occasionally or on a regular basis. The COPLOW goal is to provide a high quality, accurate, and timely mail-in ocular histopathology service specifically designed to fit the needs of board certified veterinary ophthalmologists around the world.

- **Research:** The COPLOW histopathology collection contains more than 50,000 specimens housed in a searchable format with access to all paraffin blocks and microscopic slides, as well as submission reports and pathology reports available in one room. We think of the collection as a resource in veterinary ocular pathology to be used to investigate the pathogenesis, prognosis, effectiveness of treatment, and epidemiology of spontaneous ocular disease in animal species.

- **Education:**
 - o Ocular Pathology Fellowship: This is a 1-year program designed to provide training in comparative ocular pathology and vision science by exposing the students to an extensive case-load of ocular pathology cases with the goal of broadening the fellow's appreciation of opportunities in veterinary ophthalmology and vision science research, while enhancing their curriculum vitae in preparation for future applications to ophthalmology residency training programs.
 - o Comparative ocular pathology rounds:
 - Bi-weekly rounds that takes place at the multi-headed microscope at the School of Veterinary Medicine.
 - During rounds the most interesting ocular pathology cases received through the diagnostic service on the previous weeks are presented.
 - The clinical information/history, clinical and gross images of the ocular specimens, and the histologic slides are presented by COPLOW's pathologists and trainees.
 - Rounds are attended by the veterinary and medical ophthalmology and pathology community at UW-Madison.

- Wisconsin Ocular Pathology Training Set: This is a 100-slide box of microscope slides which samples the spontaneous pathology of dog and cat eyes. The set comes with a text providing a teaching guide for each slide. The COPLOW lab produced 100 of these sets to be purchased as a teach pathology and ophthalmology trainees in the interpretation of ocular pathology. We are almost sold out.
- Visitor program: From 2006 through today, we have have had approximately 60 visitors in the COPLOW lab for periods from 2 weeks to 6 months. These are ophthalmology or pathology trainees, veterinary students, or faculty from other universities.

Additional information:

<https://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/pbs/dubielzig/pages/coplw/main.html>