

Dr. Cynthia Gaskill

Dr. Cynthia Gaskill is a veterinary diagnostic toxicologist at the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (UKVDL) in Lexington, Kentucky. Dr. Gaskill received her DVM degree from Colorado State University and worked as a private veterinary practitioner for 10 years. She then obtained her PhD in veterinary clinical pharmacology and toxicology at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Canada, where she worked for 10 years as the veterinary clinical toxicologist. Dr. Gaskill joined the faculty at the UKVDL in 2007 and directed a complete overhaul and modernization of the analytical toxicology laboratory. Dr. Gaskill oversees the operations of the toxicology laboratory, manages the diagnostic toxicology cases and consultations, teaches veterinary students and residents, and performs research focused on toxicological issues. Dr. Gaskill is a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology.

Abstract: Modern veterinary analytical toxicology laboratories are very complex and expensive to equip, staff, and maintain. If all costs are taken into account, analytical toxicology sections can be a significant financial drain on the overall laboratory budget. Additionally, finding replacements for retiring veterinary diagnostic toxicologists has become difficult. Due to these and other problems, many diagnostic laboratories have closed their toxicology laboratories in recent years, or have not included a toxicology section as part of the laboratory in the first place. This talk will focus on current challenges in the field of veterinary diagnostic toxicology and possible solutions to many of these problems.