

## **Veterinarian Joins NHHSS**

*By Josh Rowland, MBA, MT(ASCP), State Training Coordinator, NPHL*

*This is a continuation of the NPHL newsletter article series that introduces new members of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System (NHHSS) to the state laboratory community. These people will often be key contact people for organizations and testing programs they represent.*

In recognition of the importance of zoonotic infections and their risk to both humans and the Nebraska agricultural economy, the NHHSS established a new position of State Public Health Veterinarian and recruited Annette Bredthauer, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) into this position as of December 2003.

Dr. Bredthauer grew up on her family's farm near Wood River, Nebraska. She attended Kansas State University and graduated with a DVM degree in 1982. Following graduation, Dr. Bredthauer worked in private practice treating both large and small animals for 18 years in north central Kansas and south central Nebraska. Dr. Bredthauer then accepted a position as a Veterinary Medical Officer for the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service. While in this position, she worked in California for 2 months helping to eradicate Exotic Newcastle Disease, a foreign animal disease that affects birds.

In addition to being the Nebraska Public Health Veterinarian, Dr. Bredthauer will be the Rabies Control Coordinator for the state. The Rabies Control Coordinator will oversee rabies testing procedures and will work with the healthcare community and the public with continuing education programs. Other State Public Health Veterinarian duties include bioterrorism (especially agro-terrorism) issues, zoonotic diseases, and public health concerns involving animals. Dr. Bredthauer serves as the state's liaison with veterinarians, State and Federal governmental departments, livestock groups, and universities. She is also a member of two veterinary first responder groups: Nebraska Livestock Emergency Disease Response System (LEDRS) and the Kansas Veterinary Response Corps.

If your laboratory receives inquiries regarding rabies testing or other animal/human related problems, these questions can be directed to Dr. Bredthauer's office at the NHHSS by phone (402-471-1374 or 402-429-6642).