

141.8 437.3 Est'd '09-'11 to '15-'17 8.5%

IDEXX Laboratories topped our es**timates in the first quarter.** The company posted earnings of \$0.72 a share for the period, modestly surpassing our expecta-tions of \$0.70. The outperformance was driven by better-than-expected revenues and improved margins. Total sales increased 10% year over year to \$322.7 million, primarily led by strength in the Com-

panion Animal Group (CAG) segment (+11.4%). Meanwhile, a higher gross margin helped to offset seasonal increases in administrative costs.

We are raising our 2012 earnings estimate by a nickel, to \$3.10 a share. The revision largely reflects the firstquarter beat, coupled with improving industry trends. In our view, positive momentum within the companion animal sector should become more sustainable as an industry rebound becomes more apparent. Indeed, IDEXX has implemented several new strategies within its business that we believe should help to increase placement for its *Catalyst* and *ProCyte* instruments in the year ahead. Investors should note that the CAG unit remains IDEXX's bread and butter, accounting for roughly 82% of brook, ME 04092. Tel.: 207-556-0300. Internet: www.idexx.com.

total revenue. Future performance will hinge considerably on continued improvement within veterinary services.

Asian expansion presents an intriguing opportunity. Asia/Pacific remains one of IDEXX's fastest-growing regions, evidenced by a 30% increase in VetLab instrument placements during the March period. The company placed its first *Procyte* unit in Japan earlier this year.

The stock is ranked 3 (Average) for

Timeliness. We look for solid organic trends with the CAG business to help support top- and bottom-line growth in the year ahead. However, enhanced investor enthusiasm year to date has probably discounted some of the equity's near-term upside. Shares of IDXX are currently trading just below their 52-week high.

Long-term investors can find better options elsewhere. Shares of IDXX are currently trading just below our 3- to 5year Target Price Range, indicating the valuation may be a bit rich at this time. In our view, patient accounts should probably wait for a potential pullback before committing additional funds here.

May 25, 2012

(A) Based on diluted shares. Excludes net nonrecurring charges/gains: '02, \$0.03; '03, \$0.06; '04, \$0.04; '08, (\$0.03). May not sum due to rounding. Next egs. report due late July.

Current Liab.

ANNUAL RATES

of change (per sh)

Revenues

Earnings

endar

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

Cal-

endar

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

Cal-

endar

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

Dividends

Book Value

236.5

268.5

292.7

322.7

Mar.31

.43

.55

.62

.72

.75

335

285.1

Past

10 Yrs. 14.0%

15.0% 17.0%

8.5%

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

EARNINGS PER SHARE A

Jun.30 Sep.30

QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

NO CASH DIVIDENDS

BEING PAID

.62

.83

.91

.95

259.1

269.6

301.0

325

345

.59

.66

.73

.90

265.7

281.5

3179

340

360

436.9

8.0% 10.5%

14.5%

Nil

Year

1031.6

1103.4

1218 7

1320

1400

Year

2.01

2.37

2.78

3.10

3.50

Full

Past

5 Yrs. 14.5%

15.5% 15.0%

9.5%

270.3

283.8

307.1

332.3

360

Dec.31

.51

.62

.67

.74

.90

lion, \$4.39/share.

(B) Includes intangibles. In 2011: \$241.8 mil- (C) In millions, adjusted for stock split.

Michael Ratty

Company's Financial Strength A+ Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence 85 100 **Earnings Predictability** 100