

For veterinary use only



Clinical Guidelines

FIV Ab / FeLV Ag Rapid

FIV Ab / FeLV Ag (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus Antibody / Feline Leukemia Virus Antigen)

WHY USE THE FIV Ab / FeLV Ag TEST?

- FIV and FeLV are Retrovirus associated mainly with **feline neoplasms**.
- Infection by FeLV increases **the risk of developing neoplasms by more than 60 times**, especially lymphoma and leukemias. For FIV, **chronic diseases and / or opportunistic infections** are commonly observed.

Therefore, **diagnosis of these infections is important due to the severity of the consequences resulting from them** and the fact that this knowledge will influence the handling of the animal and the appropriate treatment

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: FELINE RETROVIRUS

- **Incubation Period** varies from months to several years
- **Clinical signs**
 - ✓ FIV → Immunodeficiency and secondary infection
 - ✓ FeLV → Cancer, blood disorders, immunodeficiency, secondary infection
 - ✓ **Common signs:** Enlarged lymph nodes, fever, weight loss, poor coat condition, poor appetite, inflammation of the eye/gum/mouth, sneezing, diarrhea, frequent urination, behavior change
- **Transmission**
 - ✓ through bite wounds, from cat to cat (main route)
 - ✓ vertically from an infected queen (mother) cat to her kittens
- **Vaccination** (WSAVA Guidelines)
 - ✓ FeLV Vaccination is recommended for young cats at the highest risk of infection
 - ✓ FIV vaccination is considered more controversial, as its efficacy is less predictable
- **Diagnosis**
 - ✓ **Immunochromatography test** ※ It is available for the detection of both viruses simultaneously.
 - ✓ **Western blot / IFA** ※ It is confirmatory test, but must be done at a pathology laboratory.
 - ✓ **PCR** ※ It detects not only progressively but also regressively infected cats about FeLV.

FIV-Antibody

- ✓ **Target :** IgG Ab against p24 & gp40
- ✓ Early phase of infection before Antibody have developed : **<60 days**
- ✓ Able to **DIVA**
- ✓ **Maternal antibody** (<6 months of age)

FeLV-Antigen

- ✓ **Target :** Capsid protein p27
- ✓ Early phase of infection before antigenemia : **<30 days**
- ✓ No interference with the test by **vaccination**
- ✓ (-) results in **regressive/abortive infections**

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WHEN TO USE THE FIV Ab / FeLV Ag TEST?

- **Before adoption,**
 - ✓ Cats should be tested **prior to being introduced to group housing.**
 - ✓ Even if no other cats are present in the household, testing will protect future cats that may join the family as well as neighborhood cats.
- **Before Vaccination,**
 - ✓ FeLV & FIV vaccines should not be administered to infected cats.
 - ✓ **Vaccination does not have positive effect** on the carrier state, the capacity to infect other cats or the development of disease **in cats with pre-existing infection.**
- **If clinical signs of illness are displayed,**
 - ✓ These viruses are associated with **a wide variety of health disorders.**
 - ✓ The retroviral status of cats should be known because the serious health consequences of infection influence patient management both in illness and wellness care
- **Regular check-up**
 - ✓ Infected cats can **remain asymptomatic for years**, during which time they may serve as hidden sources of infection to other cats in the household.



References

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