

FLYER

March 2003

Canine Hypothyroidism

Interpretive aids when testing for canine hypothyroidism:

1. Total T₄ is most useful for ruling out hypothyroidism (i.e. if the total T₄ is normal, the dog is unlikely to be hypothyroid). If the total T₄ is low, the dog may be truly hypothyroid or have euthyroid sick syndrome. Many drugs can also falsely lower total T₄.
2. Free T₄ by equilibrium dialysis can help distinguish between euthyroidism and hypothyroidism. Note that chronic glucocorticoid therapy or hyperadrenocorticism can depress free T₄ levels, as can other drugs. Euthyroid sick syndrome can still affect free T₄ in some dogs.
3. Autoantibodies to T₃ and T₄ may be indicative of active lymphocytic thyroiditis. Autoantibodies also elevate total T₃ or T₄ concentrations.
4. Approximately 25% of dogs with hypothyroidism can have a normal TSH. TSH concentrations may be elevated in some dogs that are healthy or have sick euthyroidism.



Feline Hyperthyroidism

Interpretive aids when testing for feline hyperthyroidism:

1. As in dogs, nonthyroidal illness and drug therapy can depress the measured T₄ concentrations in cats. **WHENEVER POSSIBLE, IT IS BEST TO RESOLVE ANY CONCURRENT ILLNESSES AND THEN ASSESS THE CAT FOR THYROID DISEASE.**
2. Euthyroid cats with nonthyroidal illness may have a high free T₄ concentration.
3. An assay for feline TSH is not currently available.
4. Some sick euthyroid cats can also have depressed TRH stimulation test results. Complete evaluation of the effects of nonthyroidal illness on T₃ suppression testing is still pending. The role of radionuclide scans using ^{99m}TcO₄ or ¹²⁵I in accurately assessing thyroid function in cats with nonthyroidal disease has yet to be fully defined.



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Excellence in Veterinary Science



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Laboratory Bits

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels:

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels can have an idiopathic asymptomatic thrombocytopenia that appears to be inherited in an autosomal recessive manner. The condition most likely constitutes an inherited macrothrombocytopenia in dogs. Due to the large size of platelets, manual platelet counts are helpful.

CBC slide reviews:

Whenever possible, please send in at least one fresh, unstained blood smear, along with the EDTA blood sample. Please do not put the slides into the slide holder or the refrigerator until the slides are dry. These efforts will reduce artifacts in cellular morphology (“aging changes”).
THANK YOU!

Reminder:

CATS VACCINATED WITH THE FEL-O-VAX® FIV VACCINE WILL TEST POSITIVE FOR FIV WITH ALL CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ANTI-BODY BASED FIV DIAGNOSTIC TESTS (e.g. SNAP® Feline Combo, PetChek® FIV Ab plates, and Western blot)!

At this time, there is no way to distinguish vaccinated cats from FIV-infected cats or cats that are both vaccinated and infected.



Education Corner

We are pleased to offer the following:

Hematology Wet Lab

Saturday, April 5, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Presenter: Dr. Chris Meshner

Hematology Wet Lab

Saturday, April 19, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Presenter: Dr. Faye Sturtevant

These sessions are intended for veterinarians and veterinary technicians. The fee of \$45.00 per person may be charged to your clinic account.

Please respond as soon as possible by phoning the Laboratory at 1-800-347-0043, or email to lindaj@pclv.net

Review of Avian Diseases:

Phoenix Central Laboratory hosts the Association of NW Avian Veterinarians on Tuesday, May 20th, from 7:30 p.m. until completion. The presenter for the program is Dr. Michael Garner.

For membership information and RSVP contact Cathy Johnson Delaney by email to Cjdelaney@SNBLUSA.com