



Technical Bulletin

Microbiology – Giardia/Cryptosporidium

GIARDIA AND CRYPTOSPORIDIUM TESTING (REPTILES AND BIRDS)

Research on the topic of Giardia and Cryptosporidium testing is ongoing. It has been determined that the direct immunofluorescent assay procedure currently in use at Phoenix Central Laboratory accurately detects all species of Giardia (from all species of animals). It will accurately detect MOST species of Cryptosporidia. Reptiles and birds are the problematic animals in this area since new strains of cryptosporidia are still being discovered for these species. Accurate in-house detection of the cryptosporidia from reptiles and birds can be achieved with a supplementary staining procedure that we will incorporate as part of the Giardia/Crypto IFA test. This is a modified acid fast stain procedure that is formulated to detect Cryptosporidia. There is a new test code (#1530) for this combined procedure for birds and reptiles (IFA and special Crypto stain).

New Test Code: #1530

Name of Panel: Avian/Reptile G & C

Tests Included in Panel: Giardia/Crypto IFA and Modified Acid Fast Stain for Crypto

Specimen: Fresh feces, 3-5 grams

Normal Test Value: Giardia/Crypto IFA – negative for Giardia and Cryptosporidia
Modified Acid Fast Stain – negative for Cryptosporidia

Day(s) Test Performed: Monday through Saturday

Reported Time: 24 hours

Price: \$37.50

Test ordered on TR: Giardia/Crypto IFA, or
“Test for Giardia and/or Crypto”, or
“Rule out Giardia and/or Crypto”, etc.

Species: Reptile (lizard, snake, turtle, etc.) or
Bird (domestic and wild)

Please note that a trichrome stain (test code #1240) and/or a fecal flotation exam (O&P, test code #213) will be performed when requested to check for other parasites.