



Technical Bulletin

Microbiology – Final Reporting Change/Urine Cultures

In early July many of you may have noticed that the Microbiology lab began finalizing urine culture reports after two days. Since the two-day reporting of urine cultures is standard at many laboratories, we thought we should look at our own data.

We looked at 789 consecutive urine cultures. Of these 789 cultures, 375 were positive for growth; 144 of these positive cultures were from felines.

Of these 375 positive cultures, 357 cultures (95%) were positive for growth after 1 day of incubation.

Eighteen of the 375 positive cultures (5%) were negative for growth on day 1 but positive for growth on day 2 of incubation. Nine of these day 2-positive cultures were from felines.

Eleven of the 18 day 2-positive cultures exhibited growth from the broth only. Seven of the 11 broth-only positive cultures contained organisms normally associated with skin flora. Four of the 7 of these skin flora, broth-only positive cultures were from felines.

There were 0 cultures that were positive for growth on day 3 of incubation that were negative on day 2 of incubation.

Therefore, we conclude that cultures exhibiting no growth after two days of incubation can be considered negative for pathogenic bacteria with a high degree of confidence.

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Please note the following changes to your Phoenix Test Directory:

Test Code(s): 506, 548
Test Names: Urine Culture, Urinalysis and Culture

Reported Time: 48 hours

Comments: Current standards in microbiology recommend urine cultures be finalized at 48 hours. Recent review of ongoing Phoenix Lab microbiology data concur with these standards showing urine cultures to be positive within the first 48 hours of plating. Those held over the 48 hour period grew nonpathogenic or contaminant organisms.