

VAX-Testing *A Program for Monitoring the Need for Vaccination*

The VAX-Testing program gives veterinarians a way to maintain annual scheduling of pet visits for health assessment via serology testing in lieu of vaccinating. The Animal Health Diagnostic Center (AHDC) has a program that addresses the concerns of many practitioners, investigators, and animal owners about when to vaccinate cats and dogs, and how long immunity lasts. The program has two main objectives:

1. To provide veterinarians with an aid for monitoring and assessing the need for vaccination
2. To serve as a research tool to help establish the duration of immunity

Routine serological testing will be performed by the AHDC with results sent to the submitting veterinarian. This program offers you the opportunity to track and monitor your serology results over time to facilitate future assessments of the need for vaccinating. Also see info online at: diagcenter.vet.cornell.edu: click on "Testing Services" in the box on the left side of the page, then click on "Specialized Testing."

The VAX-Testing Program:

- provides serological test results along with suggested guidelines for vaccination
- provides a cumulative report of annual titers to participating veterinarians for each animal's antibody status to the selected panel of agents
- utilizes the data from this service for an epidemiological assessment of duration of immunity

This program should meet the needs of those pet owners who are concerned about the potential risks to frequent vaccination, provide practitioners with a means to service concerned owners, and it can provide some "real world" data to researchers on longevity of antibody responses following vaccination. But for this program to work on all three fronts, a partnership must be established between the practitioner and the Diagnostic Center.

The AHDC will provide serological testing for those agents that are currently controlled by vaccination in the canine and feline species. The serum samples submitted will be maintained in a serum bank (provided sufficient serum remains after completing the requested testing). These samples will be used to assess changes in antibody levels over many years (all samples tested on the same day). We will *not* retest these samples on a yearly basis so as not to exhaust our supply of serum. The AHDC will also provide a yearly report on the animals that are registered in the program as a reminder for future sample submission. Also, we will provide charts showing the antibody levels of samples for specific agents submitted to the program for the past year.

Testing available

Tests can be ordered individually, in any combination, or as panels. There will *not* be any additional test charges for testing on this program; routine test charges will continue to apply (see individual test fees in this Fee Schedule for further details). The only additional expense incurred: a *one-time only* \$25.00 registration fee.

CANINE TESTS COVERED BY VAX-TESTING:

Canine Distemper SN
Canine Parvovirus HAI/2-ME
Canine Adenovirus SN
Canine Coronavirus SN
Canine Lyme Disease Western blot/KELA
Canine Vaccine Panel 1: includes Distemper and Parvo
Canine Vaccine Panel 2: includes Distemper, Parvo, and Adeno
Canine Vaccine Panel 3: includes Distemper, Parvo, and Corona

FELINE TESTS COVERED BY VAX-TESTING:

Feline Panleukopenia HAI/2-ME
Feline Herpesvirus SN
Feline Calicivirus SN
Feline Vaccine Panel 1: includes Herpesvirus and Panleuk
Feline Vaccine Panel 2: includes Herpes, Panleuk, and Calici
Feline Vaccine Panel 3: includes Panleuk and Calici

Submitting veterinarians must register with the Diagnostic Center to participate in this program. Call us at 607-253-3900 for a registration packet or download forms at diagcenter.vet.cornell.edu. The *one-time only* registration fee of \$25 per Diagnostic Center account will be charged to cover the cost of maintaining an account database, a serum bank for comparative testing when necessary, and for annual reporting of results for the animals included in the program. Otherwise, test charges are at the same rate as for non-program testing. A separate annual report will be provided to participating veterinarians for each pet owner for easy inclusion in the patient's record. The registration fee will be charge directly to the participating veterinarian's account along with routine test fees. Please make sure the words "VAX PROGRAM" are written prominently on the submission form.