Gatorland Animal Services SOPs

FeLV/FIV Testing in Cats

Effective Date: 9/15/2021 **Revised:**

Responsible Staff:

- Vet techs
- Kennel staff

Purpose: This SOP provides vet techs and kennel staff with a step-by-step procedure for testing high risk cats for FeLV/FIV infection and documenting the test results in each animal's medical record. The SOP is based on the recommendations for shelter cats in the 2020 AAFP Retrovirus Management Guidelines.

Definitions

- FeLV = feline leukemia virus
- FeLV POC test = point-of-care test for FeLV antigen in whole blood
- FIV = feline immunodeficiency virus
- FIV POC test = point-of-care test for FIV antibodies in whole blood

Supplies Needed

- Disposable exam gloves
- FeLV/FIV POC test (combination test for FeLV antigen and FIV antibodies in one blood sample)
- Sterile 1cc tuberculin syringes with needles
- Heparin
- Sharps box for needle disposal

Procedures

1. Healthy cats and kittens housed individually or by litter **ARE NOT** routinely tested for FeLV and FIV.
2. Community or feral cats for TNR **ARE NOT** routinely tested for FeLV and FIV.
3. Sick cats, cats with bite wounds, and cats from neglect situations such as hoarding **ARE** tested for FeLV and FIV.
4. Cats selected for housing together in the group rooms **ARE** tested for FeLV and FIV.
5. Wear clean exam gloves.
6. Open the animal's medical record in Chameleon.
7. Confirm that the animal's ID neckband/kennel card and description match that in the medical record.
8. Rinse a tuberculin syringe and needle with heparin to provide anti-bloodclotting activity.
9. Wrap the cat in a towel to lessen fear, anxiety, and stress. DO NOT stretch the cat out.
10. Lay the towel-wrapped cat on one side and gently pull the down hindleg out.
11. Apply pressure to the inside of the upper hindleg to occlude the medial saphenous vein. Wet the hair in the area to increase visibility if necessary.
12. Perform venipuncture of the medial saphenous vein with the heparinized tuberculin syringe and needle. Collect 0.5 mL of blood into the syringe.
13. Perform the FeLV/FIV combo test according to manufacturer instructions for whole blood samples.
14. Record the test results and date in the medical record.