

Frequently asked questions about SNAP Feline Triple Test

What is the SNAP Feline Triple Test?

The SNAP* Feline Triple* Test screens cats for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) antibody, feline leukemia virus (FeLV) antigen, and feline heartworm (FHW) antigen. This three-in-one test for feline infectious diseases provides an enhanced tool to promote feline health care.

How should the SNAP Feline Triple Test results be interpreted?

- + **Heartworm:** Heartworm disease is caused by the filarial nematode *Dirofilaria immitis*, which is present in tropical and temperate climates worldwide. The insect vector for *D. immitis* is the mosquito. The detection of heartworm antigen is diagnostic for the adult stage of infection.
- + **FIV:** A positive test result indicates that an unvaccinated cat over 6 months of age has circulating FIV antibody and, therefore, is likely infected.
- + **FeLV:** This rapid immunoassay detects the presence of FeLV p27 antigen, which if found is diagnostic for FeLV infection.

Can the test be used on kittens?

The SNAP Feline Triple Test can be used on kittens to screen for FIV and FeLV. The feline heartworm spot is not valid for young kittens, because it requires 5–7 months postinfection for antigen loads to be detectable on an antigen test. The heartworm spot on the test should be used on cats older than 7 months of age.

If a cat under 6 months of age is negative for FIV, infection is unlikely. Kittens born to infected queens may test positive for antibody. Kittens tested before 6 months of age that are positive should be retested with an FIV antibody test at 60-day intervals or with an FIV RealPCR* Test. If tests performed after 6 months of age are still confirmed positive, these kittens should be considered infected.¹

Which types of samples can be used on the SNAP Feline Triple Test?

Serum, plasma, or anticoagulated whole blood (e.g., EDTA, heparin), either fresh or stored at 2°C–8°C for up to one week, can be used.

I ran the SNAP Feline Triple Test and received a light positive on a spot. Does the color intensity of the spot mean anything?

Any color development in any of the sample spots indicates a positive result.

How many sample drops and conjugate drops do I need to run the SNAP Feline Triple Test?

The SNAP Feline Triple Test requires 3 drops of sample and 4 drops of conjugate.

I used the incorrect conjugate/sample ratio. Can I rely on the results I received?

We recommend rerunning the test with the exact ratio of conjugate/sample listed in the package insert—3 drops of sample and 4 drops of conjugate.

What is the read time for the SNAP Feline Triple Test and is it really important?

The test result must be read 10 minutes after the device is activated. The test does not contain stop solution, and after 10 minutes, color development may occur that is not related to the sample. Do not report results read after 10 minutes.

How does the SNAP Feline Triple Test need to be stored?

- + Store at 2°C–8°C until expiration date.
- + All components must be at room temperature (18°C–25°C) before running the test. Allow to sit at room temperature for 30 minutes. Do not heat.

How long can the SNAP Feline Triple Test be at room temperature?

The SNAP Feline Triple Test can be at room temperature for 14 hours as long as it is not removed from its foil packaging. The product must be returned to the refrigerator at the 14-hour mark and can be brought out to room temperature a maximum of 30 times.

My SNAP Feline Triple Test has been out of the foil package for the day. Can I still use it?

The SNAP Feline Triple Test, and any other SNAP* test, must be used within 2 hours of removing it from the foil package.

Can my SNAPshot Dx Analyzer read the SNAP Feline Triple Test?

No, the SNAPshot Dx* Analyzer cannot read the SNAP Feline Triple Test.

Can the SNAP Pro Analyzer read the SNAP Feline Triple Test?

Yes, the SNAP Pro* Analyzer can read the SNAP Feline Triple Test.

Reference

1. Little S, Levy J, Hartmann K, et al. 2020 AAEP Feline Retrovirus Testing and Management Guidelines. *J Feline Med Surg.* 2020;22(1):5–30. doi:10.1177/1098612X19895940

© 2023 IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. All rights reserved. • 09-2690540-00 • The IDEXX Privacy Policy is available at [idexx.com](https://www.idexx.com).

*Feline Triple, SNAP, SNAP Pro, and SNAPshot Dx are trademarks or registered trademarks of IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. or its affiliates in the United States and/or other countries.

