


User's Manual

# Feline Toxoplasma Antibody ELISA

An ELISA to detect antibodies against Feline  
Toxoplasma gondii infections in serum or  
plasma samples

**REF** F1011-AB01

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***Gebruik alleen de juiste versie van het protocol dat meegestuurd wordt met de kit.***

***Please use only the valid version of the package insert provided with the kit.***

***Verwenden Sie nur die jeweils gültige, im Testkit enthaltene, Arbeitsanleitung.***

***Si prega di usare la versione valida dell'inserto del pacco a disposizione con il kit.***

***Por favor, se usa solo la version valida de la metodico técnico incluido aqui en el kit.***

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## 1. Introduction

Toxoplasma gondii infections induce in cats undiagnosed fever, encephalopathy, pulmonary disease, uncal disease, hepatic disease myopathy or lymphadenopathy.

Infected cats will shed Oocysts (10-20  $\mu$ m) in the faeces (in this way cats can transmit the disease to humans, but in most cases this is not the case) for only 1 to 2 weeks. Sometimes cats develop a necrotic form of the disease, increased CSF protein/leucocytes (mono and neutro) may occur. Most people are infected by eating contaminated meat instead of being infected by cat faeces. Detection of early disease stage is very important especially in absence of clinical signs.

Following antibody signs is also very important in measuring efficiency of anti-toxoplasmic therapy. Infections can be treated by pyrimethamine and sulfa- preparations (followed by spiramycin).

## 2. Intended use of the test kit

The Feline Toxoplasma ELISA test is designed to detect antibodies against toxoplasma infections. After washing the strips are incubated with the cat sera or plasma to be tested. The strips are washed after incubation to remove unbound materials. A HRP conjugated anti-species antibodies conjugate is added to detect bound cat antibodies to toxoplasma antibodies. After incubation and rinsing the substrate is added and the optical density is measured at 450 nm.

## 3. Principle of the test kit

The test is based on the reaction of toxoplasma proteins with polyclonal cat antibodies. To this end toxoplasma proteins have been coated to a microtiter plate. The diluted cat serum/plasma sample is added to the wells of the coated plate.

➤ **Qualitative**

The sample is added (diluted 1:100) to the wells of the coated plate.

➤ **Quantitative**

The sample also can be titrated using a 3-step dilution, starting with a dilution 1:30 (→ 1:90 → 1:270 → 1:810).

After washing the bound cat antibodies are detected by a HRP conjugated anti-species antibodies conjugate. The color reaction in the wells is directly related to the concentration of toxoplasma antibodies in serum/plasma samples.

## 4. Contents

- 12 x 8 Microtiter strips
- 1 x Strip holder
- 1 x 18 ml ELISA buffer (green cap)
- 1 x 12 ml HRPO conjugated anti-species antibodies (red cap)
- 1 x 0,5 ml Positive control (freeze dried) (purple cap)
- 1 x 1,0 ml Negative control (freeze dried) (silver cap)
- 1 x 20 ml Wash solution (200x concentrated) (black cap), dilute in de-ionized water before use!
- 1 x 8 ml Substrate A (white cap)
- 1 x 8 ml Substrate B (blue cap)
- 1 x 8 ml Stop solution (yellow cap)
- 1 x Plastic cover seal
- 1 x User's manual

### Supplies needed (not included)

- Round-bottomed microtiter plate
- Validated precision pipettes
- Pipette tips and clean containers/tubes (EVL)
- ELISA plate reader

## 5. Handling and storage of specimens

The kit should be stored at 4°C.

An open packet should be used within 10 days.

Samples may be used fresh or may be kept frozen below -20°C before use.

After first use ready-to-use controls and/or reconstituted controls should be aliquoted immediately and stored at -20°C.

Avoid repeated freezing and thawing as this increases non-specific reactivity.

## 6. Wash protocol

In ELISA's, un-complexed components must be removed efficiently between each incubation step. This is accomplished by appropriate washing. It should be stressed that each washing step must be carried out with care to guarantee reproducible inter- and intra-assay results. It is essential to follow the washing procedures outlined below. Washing may be done manually or with automatic equipment. Automatic washing equipment usually gives better result.

### Manual washing

1. Empty each well by turning the microtiter plate upside down, followed by a firm vertical downward movement to remove the buffer.
2. Fill all the wells with 250 µl wash solution.
3. This washing cycle (step 1 and 2) should be carried out at least 5 times.
4. Turn the plate upside down and empty the wells with a firm vertical movement.
5. Place the inverted plate on absorbent paper towels and tap the plate firmly to remove any residual wash solution in the wells.
6. Take care that none of the wells dry out before the next reagent is added.

### Washing with automatic equipment

When automatic plate washing equipment is used, check that all wells are aspirated completely and that the wash solution is correctly added, reaching the rim of each well during each rinsing cycle. The washer should be programmed to execute at least 5 washing cycles.

## 7. Preparations

- Before using the reagents needed, take them out of the kit and place them on the table for  $\pm 15$  min. at room temperature ( $\pm 21^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) without exposing them to direct sunlight or (other) heat sources.
- Buffer, controls, standards and conjugates need to be shaken gently before use, in order to dissolve/ mix any components that may have precipitated. Gently tap the vials onto the table, so any fluid still retained in the cap falls back into the solution.
- If fluids need to be mixed into the test well, gently shake by tapping the wells with the fingers or re-suspend with the last pipette tip used for that particular well. Avoid contamination through spattering and prevent any fluid to enter inside the pipette itself.
- Place the reagents back at  $4-8^{\circ}\text{C}$  immediately after use.

## 8. Test protocol qualitative

Before starting this test read “preparations”

1. Open the packet of strips and take out the strips to be used. Cover the remaining strips with a part of the provided seal and store them at +4°C. and use them within 10 days.

*Wash microtiter strip(s) 5x with washing solution, according to washing protocol.*

**The washing solutions provided must be diluted 200x in aquabidest (5 mega Ohm) water!**

Use validated precision pipettes and use a clean pipette tip **before** pipetting the buffer, control, samples, conjugate and substrate.

2. Reconstitute directly before use the **positive control** (purple cap) **in 0,5 ml aquabidest** (5 mega Ohm water), divide into aliquots, and store after complete dissolving immediately at -20 °C until use, avoid freeze and thaw cycles.
3. Reconstitute directly before use the **negative control** (silver cap) **in 1,0ml aquabidest** (5 mega Ohm water), divide into aliquots, and store after complete dissolving immediately at -20 °C until use, avoid freeze and thaw cycles.
4. Dilute the **positive control** (purple cap) **starting 1:30 → 1:90 → 1:270 → 1:810 in ELISA buffer** (green cap) in a round-bottomed plate (not supplied).
 

**Example:** - A **pre-dilution** is needed:

  - Add 80µl ELISA buffer to **row 1A**, add 20µl of the positive control to the **well 1A** and mix well.
  - Add 150µl ELISA buffer to **row 2A**,
  - And 120µl to **2B, 2C, 2D**
  - Add 30µl of pre-dilution **well 1A** in the well **2A** and mix well
  - Mix well and transfer 60µl to the well **2B**
  - Mix well and transfer 60µl to the well **2C**
  - Mix well and transfer 60µl to the well **2D**
  - Mix well and discard 60µl.
5. Dilute the **negative control** (silver cap) **1:30 in ELISA buffer** (green cap) in a round-bottomed plate (not supplied).
 

**Example:** - Add 145µl ELISA buffer to **well 2E**, add 5µl of the negative control to the **well 2E** and mix well.
6. Dilute **each sample 1:100 in ELISA buffer** (green cap) in a round-bottomed plate (not supplied).
 

**Example:** - Add 198µl ELISA buffer to **well 2F**, add 2µl of the sample to the **well 2F** and mix well.
7. Take 2 wells as **substrate controls** add only **120µl ELISA buffer** (green cap) to these wells.
8. Transfer 100µl of all dilutions of **row 2** to the coated microtiter strips, including the substrate controls.
9. Seal and incubate for 60 min at 37°C.
10. Wash the strips 5x according to the wash protocol <sup>see sub 6</sup>.
11. Add **100µl HRPO conjugated anti-species antibodies** to all wells.
12. Seal and incubate for 60 min at 37°C.

13. Wash the strips according to the wash protocol <sup>see sub 6</sup>.
14. Mix equal parts of substrate A (white cap) and substrate B (blue cap) with gentle shaking.  
**Prepare immediately before use! Only prepare amount needed. Substrate can only be used for 1-2 hours after being mixed.**
15. Add **100µl substrate solution** to each well.
16. Incubate 10-13min in the dark (e.g. cover the wells with a sheet of paper) at room temperature (21°C.). Make sure the negative control does not become too dark.
17. Add **50µl stop solution** to each well; mix well.
18. Read the absorbency values immediately (within 10 min!) at 450nm using 620nm as reference on the ELISA reader. **Use the substrate controls as blank.**

***NB: if you pipet directly into the coated ELISA plate with only a small number of samples (<6), make sure the first dilution is done in round bottom microtiter plate second step can be done directly in the coated Elisa plate.***



## 9. Test protocol quantitative

Before starting this test read “preparations”

1. Open the packet of strips and take out the strips to be used. Cover the remaining strips with a part of the provided seal and store them at +4°C. and use them within 10 days.

*Wash microtiter strip(s) 5x with washing solution, according to washing protocol.*

**The washing solutions provided must be diluted 200x in aquabidest (5 mega Ohm) water!**

Use validated precision pipettes and use a clean pipette tip **before** pipetting the buffer, control, samples, conjugate and substrate.

2. Reconstitute directly before use the **positive control** (purple cap) **in 0,5 ml aquabidest** (5 mega Ohm water), divide into aliquots, and store after complete dissolving immediately at -20 °C until use, avoid freeze and thaw cycles.
3. Reconstitute directly before use the **negative control** (silver cap) **in 1,0ml aquabidest** (5 mega Ohm water), divide into aliquots, and store after complete dissolving immediately at -20 °C until use, avoid freeze and thaw cycles.
4. Make a pre-dilution of the **positive control** (purple cap) **in ELISA buffer** (green cap) in a round-bottomed plate (not supplied).  
**Example:** - Add 80µl ELISA buffer to **row 1A** and add 20µl of the positive control to the well **1A**.
5. Make a pre-dilution of the **negative control** (silver cap) **in ELISA buffer** (green cap) in a round-bottomed plate (not supplied).  
**Example:** - Add 80µl ELISA buffer to **row 1B** and add 20µl of the negative control to the well **1B**.
6. Make a pre-dilution of **each sample in ELISA buffer** (green cap) in a round-bottomed plate (not supplied).  
**Example:** - Add 80µl ELISA buffer to **row 1C** and add 20µl of the sample to the well **1C**.
7. Take 2 wells as **substrate controls** add only **140µl ELISA buffer** (green cap) to these wells.
8. Add for dilution of the **positive control 125µl ELISA buffer** to **row 1A**.  
And 100µl to **1B, 1C, 1D** of the coated microtiter strip.
9. Add for dilution of the **negative control 125µl ELISA buffer** to **row 1E**.  
And 100µl to **1F, 1G, 1H** of the coated microtiter strip.
10. Add for dilution of the **samples 125µl ELISA buffer** to the other **row 2A and 2E**.  
And 100µl to **2B, 2C, 2D and 2F, 2G, 2H** (depending on the number of samples) of the coated microtiter strip.
11. Make a 3-step dilution of the **positive control** in the coated microtiter strip, **starting 1:30 → 1:90 → 1:270 → 1:810**.  
**Example:** - Add 25µl positive control from step 4 to the well **1A** of the microtiter strip.  
- Mix well and transfer 50 µl to the well **1B**  
- Mix well and transfer 50µl to the well **1C**  
- Mix well and transfer 50µl to the well **1D**  
- Mix well and discard 50µl.



12. Make a 3-step dilution of the **negative control** in the coated microtiter strip, **starting 1:30 → 1:90 → 1:270 → 1:810**.  
**Example:**
  - Add 25µl negative control from step 5 to the well **1E** of the microtiter strip.
  - Mix well and transfer 50µl to the next well **1F**
  - Mix well transfer 50µl to the next well **1G**
  - Mix well and transfer 50µl to the well **1H**
  - Mix well and discard 50µl.
13. Make 3-step dilution of **each sample** in the coated microtiter strip, **starting 1:30 → 1:90 → 1:270 → 1:810**.  
**Example:**
  - Add 25µl of each sample from step 6 to the well **2A and/or 2E** of the microtiter strip.
  - Mix well and transfer 50 µl to the well **2B and/or 2F**
  - Mix well and transfer 50µl to the well **2C and/or 2G**
  - Mix well and transfer 50µl to the well **2D and/or 2H**
  - Mix well and discard 50µl.
14. Add **100µl of the substrate control** of step 7 to the last 2 wells of the microtiter strip.
15. Seal and incubate for 60 min at 37°C.
16. Wash the strips 5x according to the wash protocol <sup>see sub 6</sup>.
17. Add **100µl HRPO conjugated anti-species antibodies** to all wells.
18. Seal and incubate for 60 min at 37°C.
19. Wash the strips according to the wash protocol <sup>see sub 6</sup>.
20. Mix equal parts of substrate A (white cap) and substrate B (blue cap) with gentle shaking.  
**Prepare immediately before use! Only prepare amount needed. Substrate can only be used for 1-2 hours after being mixed.**
21. Add **100µl substrate solution** to each well.
22. Incubate 10-13 min. in the dark (e.g. cover the wells with a sheet of paper). at room temperature (21°C.). Make sure the negative control does not become too dark.
23. Add **50µl stop solution** to each well; mix well.
24. Read the absorbency values immediately (within 10 min!) at 450 nm using 620nm as reference on the ELISA reader. **Use the substrate controls as blank.**

## 10. Precautions

- Handle all biological material as though capable of transmitting infectious diseases.
- Do not pipette by mouth.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke or prepare foods, or apply cosmetics within the designated working area.
- TMB substrate (buffer B) is toxic by inhalation, through contact with skin or when swallowed; observe care when handling substrate.
- Do not use components past the expiry date and do not mix components from different serial lots.
- Optimal, results will be obtained by strict adherence to this protocol. Careful pipetting and washing throughout this procedure are necessary to maintain precision and accuracy.
- Each well is ultimately used as an optical cuvette. Therefore, do not touch the under-surface of the microtiter plate and protect it from damage and dirt.

## 11. Validation of the test

### Qualitative:

- The results are valid if the following criteria are met:
  - The mean value (MV) of the measured OD value for the Positive Control (PC), diluted 1:30, must be  $\geq 1.000$ .
  - The MV of the measured OD value for the Negative Control (NC), diluted 1:30, must be  $\leq 0.400$ .

In case of invalid assays the test should be repeated after a thorough review of the instructions for use.

### Calculation

Calculate the mean values (MV) of the measured OD for the Negative Control (NC) and the Positive Control (PC).

The ratio (S/P) of sample OD to mean OD of the positive control is calculated according to the following equation:

$$S/P = \frac{OD_{sample} - MV_{OD_{NC}}}{MV_{OD_{PC}} - MV_{OD_{NC}}}$$

### Quantitative:

In order to confirm appropriate test conditions the OD of the positive control, diluted 1:30, should be  $\geq 1.000$  OD units (450nm) and give an endpoint titer of 90.

The negative control, diluted 1:30, should be  $\leq 0.400$  OD units (450nm) and give an endpoint titer of  $\leq 30$ .

## 12. Interpretation of the test results

This test can be used in 2 ways.



### Qualitative: Positive – Negative

- A sample with the S/P ratio <0.31 is negative.
  - Specific antibodies to Toxoplasma could not be detected.
- A sample with the S/P ratio ≥0.31 is positive.
  - Specific antibodies to Toxoplasma were detected.

### Quantitative: End point titre

- The ELISA titre can be calculated by constructing a curve and using cut-off line(dilution 1:30-90-270 -810-2430 -7290etc total 8 dilutions of 3 steps) OD on Y-as and Titre on X-as  
ELISA titres can be calculated using as cut-off 2,5 times OD value of negative control at 1:30.

## 13. Symbols used with EVL ASSAYS

Symbol	English	Deutsch	Français	Español	Italiano
	Consult instructionsforuse	Gebrauchsanweisung beachten	Consulter les instructions d'utilisation	Consulte las instrucciones de uso	Consultare le istruzioni per l'uso
	European Conformity	CE-Konformitätskennzeichnung	Conformité aux normes européennes	Conformidad europea	Conformità europea
	In vitro diagnostic device	In-vitro-Diagnostikum	Usage Diagnostic in vitro	Para uso Diagnóstico in vitro	Per uso Diagnostica in vitro
	For research use only	Nur für Forschungszwecke	Seulement dans le cadre de recherches	Sólo para uso en investigación	Solo a scopo di ricerca
	Catalogue number	Katalog-Nr.	Numéro de catalogue	Número de catálogo	Numero di Catalogo
	Lot. No. / Batch code	Chargen-Nr.	Numéro de lot	Número de lote	Numero di lotto
	Contains sufficient for <n> tests/	Ausreichend für "n" Ansätze	Contenu suffisant pour "n" tests	Contenido suficiente para <n> ensayos	Contenuto sufficiente per "n" saggi
	Storage Temperature	Lagerungstemperatur	Température de conservation	Temperatura de conservación	Temperatura di conservazione
	Expiration Date	Mindesthaltbarkeitsdatum	Date limite d'utilisation	Fecha de caducidad	Data di scadenza
	Legal Manufacturer	Hersteller	Fabricant	Fabricante	Fabbricante
Distributed by	Distributor	Vertreiber	Distributeur	Distribuidor	Distributore
Content	Content	Inhalt	Conditionnement	Contenido	Contenuto
Volume/No.	Volume / No.	Volumen/Anzahl	Volume/Quantité	Volumen/Número	Volume/Quantità

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