

# VacciCheck FAQ's

19 November 2017

## What does VacciCheck test for?

VacciCheck measures antibody levels in dogs/puppies for Parvovirus, Distemper, and Infectious Hepatitis and Panleukopenia in cats/kittens to confirm vaccination status.

## How many tests come in a kit?

Each kit comes with 12 individual tests that may be run one at a time or batched tested up to 12 at a time. The control is built into each strip so running one test or 12 tests uses only one strip per patient making it the most economical option. We have also a Lab option, comes with 120 individual tests.

## Can I Individually test or batch test?

Absolutely! Many clinics will collect samples and run together at one time. Each test is self-contained, ex. If you run 4 at a time, the other 8 will still be perfectly fine as long as the other columns of the plate remain sealed.

## How long is the kit good for?

VacciCheck has a shelf life of up to 15 months.

## How long is it still good for after the expiration date?

Once a kit has passed the expiration date, it can no longer be guaranteed for accuracy and should be properly disposed.

## Does it need to be refrigerated?

VacciCheck should be kept refrigerated 2-8°C when not in use and brought to room temperature prior to being used as per the instruction manual.

## What sample should be used with the kit

Whole blood, Serum or Plasma

## How much blood or serum does I need?

Very little blood is required, just 5µl of serum or 10µl of whole blood.

## What is the best way to store a blood sample? Whole blood in a heparin tube or EDTA-tube or serum?

### And how long in the fridge?

### And how long in the freezer?

- Blood should be taken in a heparin or EDTA tube.
- Fresh samples are recommended for use.
- Separate the serum from the clot or plasma from the packed cells as soon as possible to avoid any hemolysis.

Whole blood sample should be used for testing within 24 hours from collection. It may be kept in the fridge (2-8°C) for this time. Do not freeze whole blood samples. Serum and plasma samples should be stored at 2-8°C if the test is to be run within 7 days of collection. If testing is delayed more than 7 days, the sample should be frozen (-20°C or colder). A frozen serum/plasma can be kept for a very long time, for years. Please note that if you do freezing and thawing ONCE, then there should not be any problem, however if you intend to repeat it several times, then it is best to split the volume into small units

then freeze it.

Also note that some freezers have an automatic mechanism of defrosting. If you plan to keep it for a long time, make sure this is not one of them.

- If stored at 2-8°C or frozen, bring samples to room temperature and mix well before testing.

#### **Is a cold sample acceptable for VacciCheck?**

No. Before testing bring the specimen to room temperature. For small vials, usually 30 min before should be fine.

#### **What happens if there is a puncture in the aluminum foil of a test that I'm not using?**

Do not use this specific test as future contamination may result in an inaccurate test result. Other sealed tests may still be used.

#### **How to save the Comb, especially losing its aluminum foil? Should it be stored in 2-8 degrees and shut light?**

It can be saved in zip lock bag with desiccant, in the fridge in the dark.

#### **Why only in certain wells (A, C and F) we need to move the Combs up and down? Why not for other wells?**

This is incorrect. Mixing by moving the Comb up and down must be done in all wells. The optimal mixing is as follows: During each incubation step perform 2-3 mixing actions. Each mixing action includes moving the Comb up and down 3-4 times.

#### **Not incubating in well E two times. Any affect?**

Any deviation in operation of the test will affect the development of the test and the ability to interpret the result correctly.

#### **How do I interpret the results?**

Once your comb has been developed there will be gray dots. A positive reference and three tests. Results are always relative to the positive reference.

#### **Can I give the results a numerical value?**

Yes! VacciCheck is semi quantitative and comes with a slide scale to match the grey dots on the developing comb with a correlating number. Biogal offers a CombScan software for users who prefer an automated system to interpret results and a corresponding titer.

#### **What is the CombScan Software?**

It is a software, which provides objective quantitative and qualitative results of Biogal's ImmunoComb tests. It does so by employing a standard scanner to scan a developed Comb. The data is then analyzed and interpreted to clinically meaningful results.

#### **Do the results fade over time?**

No. Once the results have been developed they will stay developed and can be kept as a record.

#### **Any indication for saving ImmunoComb after being used? High temperature, humidity, sunlight, and other issues affect the color of the comb?**

The developed Comb should be stored at room temperature in a dark place. Doing that assure stability for many years.

**How often do we need to test?**

It is recommended to test yearly, prior to adult core vaccine boosters.

**What is the support to back up the kit performance?**

The sensitivity specificity as well as published journal articles can all be found in Biogal's website, [www.biogal.co.il](http://www.biogal.co.il), or by contacting [info@biogal.co.il](mailto:info@biogal.co.il).

**How should the kit be used in assessing puppy vaccination status?**

The recommended puppy protocol is to give the injections at 8, 12 and 16 weeks (WSAVA 2016). Prior to that maternal antibody may negate the vaccine. In a few cases even 14 weeks is still too soon and the puppy is not protected as expected. It is recommended to therefore use the test at 16 weeks to test for antibody and if negative to vaccinate one more time and then repeat the test again after two weeks. Please refer to the WSAVA website for the most updated Vaccination Guidelines for more information:

<http://www.wsava.org/>

**How can this test be used for shelters?**

One of the most common uses of VacciCheck in shelter medicine is on intake. By titer testing, rather than vaccinating dogs with an unknown history, you can safely bypass any quarantines that may be required. This allows for quicker adoption and ensures the safety of all dogs in the shelter. The other is in the event of an outbreak, VacciCheck is used to determine which dogs are protected and safe, and which need to be quarantined. The results of the test (as with any other serological test) should always be correlated with the clinical findings and history of risk factors. Please refer to the Maddies Fund flow chart for a full description on how to use VacciCheck in your shelter:

<http://www.maddiesfund.org/assets/documents/Resource%20Library/VacciCheck%20Titer%20Testing%20Flow%20Chart.pdf>