Frequently asked questions about SNAP FIV/FeLV Combo Test

What is the SNAP FIV/FeLV Combo Test?
The SNAP™ FIV/FeLV Combo Test screens cats for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) antibody and feline leukaemia virus (FeLV). This test for these two infectious diseases provides an enhanced tool to promote feline healthcare.

How should the SNAP FIV/FeLV Combo Test results be interpreted?
+ **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?
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.

According to the 2020 Feline VMA Retrovirus Testing and Management Guidelines, kittens can be tested at "any age" for FeLV. Cats can receive positive results at any age, and these results should receive follow-up testing, see FeLV Diagnostic Algorithm. If there is concern for recent exposure, cats receiving negative results should be retested at a minimum of 30 days post exposure to allow FeLV antigen to reach detectable levels. It is possible for a kitten to be infected with FeLV in utero. Because there is no way to determine when exposure occurred in these cases, we still recommend testing at least 30 days post birth to ensure antigen has reached detectable levels.[1]

Which types of samples can be used on the SNAP FIV/FeLV Combo 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 FIV/FeLV Combo Test and received a light positive on a spot. Does the colour intensity of the spot mean anything?
Any colour 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 FIV/FeLV Combo Test?
The SNAP FIV/FeLV Combo 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 FIV/FeLV Combo 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, colour development may occur that is not related to the sample. Do not report results read after 10 minutes.

How does the SNAP FIV/FeLV Combo 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 FIV/FeLV Combo Test be at room temperature?
The SNAP FIV/FeLV Combo 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 FIV/FeLV Combo Test has been out of the foil package for the day. Can I still use it?
The SNAP FIV/FeLV Combo Test, and any other SNAP test, must be used within 2 hours of removing it from the foil package.

Can my SNAPshot Dx Analyser read the SNAP FIV/FeLV Combo Test?
No, the SNAPshot Dx™ Analyser cannot read the SNAP FIV/FeLV Combo Test.

Can the SNAP Pro Analyser read the SNAP FIV/FeLV Combo Test?
Yes, the SNAP Pro™ Analyser can read the SNAP FIV/FeLV Combo Test.

Reference

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

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