IX. READING AND INTERPRETING THE FCoV ANTIBODY RESULTS

- The upper spot is the internal control - it should give a dark purple grey color.
- The middle spot, the positive reference spot, should give a distinct purple grey color. This is the same color tone that is generated by a significant positive IgG response. This spot should be read as S3 on the CombScale (a scale of S3 to S3). 
- The bottom spot on the Comb tests for FCoV antibodies.
- Compare the color tone of the FCoV spot (bottom one) with the positive reference spot (middle one). A clear, visible purple grey dot indicates a positive response to FCoV. A result darker than the positive reference means (S0-S3). A color lighter than the positive reference indicates a low response to FCoV.
- To evaluate the test, use the CombScale provided in the kit (see section X).
- Cats with FIP usually have high antibody levels.
- A negative result (less than S1) indicates that the cat has not been exposed or had cleared the virus, and is free of FCoV.

X. READING RESULTS WITH THE COMBScale

When the Comb is completely dry, align it with the calibrated color CombScale provided in the kit. Find the tone of purple grey on the CombScale that most closely matches the positive reference spot (middle spot). Slide the yellow ruler until the C+ mark appears in the window above that color you just found. Hold the slide in this position during the entire reading. This step actually calibrates the C+ to S3, which is the cut-off point to which test spots will be compared.

While holding the slide, find the tone of purple grey on the CombScale that most closely matches the test result spot (bottom spot). The number that appears in the window above is the CombScale score (50-56). Repeat this step with every test spot separately.

V. CLINICAL SIGNS

Infection with FCoV is asymptomatic in the majority of cats. In a small percentage of cases, fever, diarrhea, and upper respiratory signs such as conjunctivitis can occur. This stage may last for an undefined time and then progress to a severe systemic disease known as Feline Infectious Peritonitis. FIP manifests clinically in 2 forms, effusive (left) and non-effusive (dry). FIP is generally associated with a fatal outcome, even with therapy.

VI. DIAGNOSIS

Evaluation of antibody titters to FCoV in cats indicates previous exposure to this agent. It is unclear why clinical disease (FP) develops only in a small percentage of infected cats. Many of them have a history of recent stress, such as relocation to a new home, surgery (e.g., neutering) or another illness. Cats with FIP typically have high antibody titers to FCoV. As such, serology is considered to be useful for helping diagnose individual clinical cases as well as for prevention and control programs in multiple cat households or facilities.

VII. STORAGE & HANDLING

1. Store the kit under normal refrigeration: 2-8°C (36-46°F). Do not freeze the kit.
2. Before conducting the test, maintain all kit elements and specimen at room temperature – preferably for 60-120 minutes (or 22 minutes at 37°C or 98.6°F). Perform assay at room temperature of 20-25°C (68-77°F).
3. Avoid contamination and cross-contamination of solutions.
4. Mix reagents by inverting developing plate several times prior to use.
5. Do not mix reagents from different kits or from different compartments of the same kit.
6. Do not touch teeth of ImmunoComb® card.
7. When using developing plate, pierce the cover of each compartment according to the test procedure instructions. Do not remove cover of entire developing plate all at once.
8. The ImmunoComb® Kit contains inactivated biological material. Use large amounts of water to flush the kit developing solution down the sewage system. The kit must be handled and disposed of in accordance with accepted sanitary requirements. It is recommended to incinerate the kit after use.
**VIII. STEP BY STEP WITH THE IMMUNOCOMB**

Perform assay at room temperature of 20°-25°C (68°-77°F).

1. Obtain blood sample from cat.

2. Use a pipette or a capillary tube.
   For testing whole blood use 10μL.
   For testing serum/plasma use 5μL.

3. Use the tweezers to pierce the protective aluminum cover of well in row A.
   One well for each sample/specimen.

4. Deposit a sample into well in row A.
   Slide and lower the piston/plunger several times to achieve mixing.

Do not open any wells of row A or other rows which you do not intend to use.
* See fig. 1, page 6.

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I. INTENDED USE OF THE KIT

This kit is designed to determine cat serum IgG antibody level for FeLV and FCDP. Detection of antibodies to FCDP in most cats is not associated with clinically apparent disease. In some cats, a severe, typically fatal, disease known as FIP may develop.

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III. WHAT IS THE IMMUNOCOMB® ASSAY?

The ImmunoComb® test is a modified ELISA that detects antibody levels in serum or whole blood. The kit contains all necessary reagents for developing the test and is a self-contained portable kit. Results for the FCDP tests are obtained in less than 40 minutes.

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IV. HOW DOES THE IMMUNOCOMB® WORK?

- The ImmunoComb® Kit contains 2 main components, a comb-shaped plastic card, hereafter referred to as the Comb, and a multi-compartment developing plate.
- The Comb has 12 teeth; sufficient for 12 tests.
- Each tooth will develop in a corresponding column of wells in the developing plate. Individual or multiple tests are processed by breaking off the desired number of teeth from the Comb.
- Test spots of FCDP antigen are attached to the lower spot on each tooth of the Comb. The middle spot is the positive reference and the upper most spot is the internal control.
- The first step of the test is to deposit serum, plasma or blood specimen in a well in row A of the multi-compartment developing plate.
- Next, the Comb is inserted into the well(s) with the sample(s) and transferred to the remaining wells (B-F) at timed intervals, according to the instructions that follow. Specific IgG antibodies from the specimen, if present, bind to the antigen at the test spots.
- The Comb is transferred to the next well (row B) where non-bound antibodies are washed off.
- The Comb is inserted into the following well (row C), which contains an enzyme labeled anti-IgG antibody, which will bind to the antigen-antibody complexes at the test spots.
- After 2 more washes (rows D & E) the Comb is moved to the next well (row F), where a color result develops via an enzymatic reaction.

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VI. EXAMPLE OF A DEVELOPED COMB

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TOOTH No. | RESULT | REMARKS (in cats with clinical signs)
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1, 12 | S0 | Negative result - No reaction to FCDP and FIP.
2, 4 | ≥S5 | High positive reaction; Greater likelihood with FIP.
3, 5 | S2 | Low positive reaction; FIP unlikely.
6, 8 | ≥S3 | Medium positive reaction; FIP possible.
7 | ≥S1 | A non specific reaction, considered negative.
9 | Invalid | High background color - Invalid test.
10 | Invalid | No internal control and no positive reference - Invalid test.
11 | ≥S3 | High background. Medium positive reaction; FIP possible.

Another way to read the results is by using the CombScan 2007. This is a software program that utilizes a computer and a twin compatible scanner. When a comb is placed on the scanner, the program translates the color results into numerical values. The CombScan 2007 assists labs in reading ImmunoComb® results and conserving the data, and is supplied free of charge upon request.

For further assistance please contact your local distributor, or Biogal Galed Labs, directly by e-mail: info@biogal.co.il or by fax: 972-4-9888690.