PT-06: "DETECTION OF ANTI-*TOXOPLASMA* IgG IN ANIMAL SERUM SAMPLES"

PROCEDURE

PT items

Description. Each vial contains an animal serum sample positive or negative for anti-*Toxoplasma* IgG.

Sample preparation. Serum samples were collected from *Toxoplasma gondii* infected animals as well as from *Toxoplasma gondii* free animals and tested for anti-*Toxoplasma* IgG by three commercial kits (ID Screen® Toxoplasmosis Indirect Multi-species Indirect ELISA TOXOS-MS, Toxoreagent Mast Diagnostica and PrioCHECK™ Small Rum. Toxoplasma Ab Strip Kit). Positive and negative serum samples were aliquoted, and preserved in 1% merthiolate at a final dilution of 1:10,000. Each item is labeled with a unique code without any other information.

Homogeneity check.

Since each PT item was collected from a single animal, homogeneity is ensured

Preparation of packages. Vials containing serum samples are inserted in a plastic bag sealed under vacuum, which is put inside a polystyrene carton, ready for shipment. A number of ice packs are placed in the package to maintain the inside temperature between +4 - + 15°C during transportation.

*Stability check and quality control***.** The stability of the items in the package has been evaluated by ad hoc experiments made by EURLP. Serum samples with merthiolate and stored between +4-+15°C were stable up to six months from the date of preparation.

Criteria for the result evaluation. The participating laboratory has to test all items with three different commercial kits, namely: ID Screen® Toxoplasmosis Indirect Multi-species Indirect ELISA TOXOS-MS, Toxoreagent Mast Diagnostica e PrioCHECK™ Small Rum. Toxoplasma Ab Strip Kit, only if the laboratory has already these tests. Otherwise, the participating laboratory has to test all items with at least two tests (ID Screen® Toxoplasmosis Indirect Multi-species Indirect ELISA TOXOS-MS, and PrioCHECK™ Small Rum. Toxoplasma Ab Strip Kit). If necessary, the tests that can be provided by the EURLP. Please note that it will not be possible to send a complete kit to each lab, but we can provide all the material necessary to perform the tests.

The participating laboratory has to indicate the positivity or negativity of each tested item for each kit, together with the IgG titer of each positive sample. The result of the analysis of each serum sample is reported as “correctly classified” or “incorrectly classified”. Final evaluation is considered as “positive” if all samples are correctly classified and “negative” in all the other cases. The result evaluation is qualitative, IgG titers will be considered as additional information to compare the performance of tests used by participants.

Report. The EURLP provides both an Individual PT Report, including the following information: i) expected vs observed test classification of each serum sample; ii); the final evaluation and iii) comments and/or recommendations made by EURLP based on the laboratory performance, and a Final PT Report including the results of all participating labs. The Final report is published on the EURLP website and presented to the NRL during the annual workshop.

To guarantee confidentiality, the individual PT report is available only to the participant lab, and in the final report only the lab codes are displayed.

For any information or problem related to the PT participation, please address to:

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