PT on "DETECTION OF ANTI-*TOXOPLASMA* IgG IN GOAT SERUM SAMPLES"

PROCEDURE

PT items

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

Sample preparation. Serum samples were collected from *Toxoplasma gondii* infected goats as well as from *Toxoplasma gondii* free goat and tested for anti-*Toxoplasma* IgG by a commercial kit (ID Screen® Toxoplasmosis Indirect Multi-species Indirect ELISA TOXOS-MS). Positive and negative serum samples were aliquoted, and preserved in 1% merthiolate at a final dilution of 1:10,000. Each sample was 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, as well the forms to be filled in by the participating lab.

*Stability check and quality control***.** The stability of the samples 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 for more than 1 month from the date of preparation.

Criteria for the result evaluation. The participating laboratory has to indicate the positivity or negativity of each tested samples, together with the IgG titer found in each positive sample. 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 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 presented to the NRL during the annual workshop and afterwards published on the EURLP website.

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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