

Important Service Update

IDEXX Reference Laboratories Announces Update to the Spec fPL Test Reference Intervals

As of July 12, 2023, IDEXX Reference Laboratories will provide newly updated reference intervals for our Spec fPL* (feline pancreas-specific lipase) Test results. Comparing an individual patient’s results to a reference interval is a key component in determining the health of a patient. Every reference laboratory should periodically review their reference intervals and update them when appropriate.

Which reference intervals will be updated?

Reference intervals for the Spec fPL Test will be updated as follows:

≤ 4.4 µg/L	Normal range
4.5–8.8 µg/L	Spec fPL concentration is in the equivocal range (4.5–8.8 µg/L) and pancreatitis is possible. Investigate for other diseases and consider additional diagnostics and/or treatment if clinical signs or other evidence of disease exist. Recheck Spec fPL concentration in 2–3 weeks.
≥ 8.9 µg/L	Spec fPL concentration is consistent with pancreatitis (≥ 8.9 µg/L). If clinical signs are present, treat appropriately and investigate for risk factors and concurrent diseases, including enteritis, cholangitis, hepatic lipidosis, and diabetes mellitus. Monitor Spec fPL to assess response to treatment. If clinical signs are not present, consider additional diagnostics, instruct owner to monitor closely, and recheck Spec fPL concentration in 2–3 weeks.

Why were the reference intervals changed?

Dr. Jörg Steiner and his team at the Texas A&M University Gastrointestinal Laboratory recently completed a new validation study on the Spec fPL Test that indicated an update to interpretive criteria was appropriate and would better align with clinical experience of this test. This work will be documented in a peer-reviewed study that is expected to be published in the summer of 2023.

Is the SNAP fPL Test changing?

No, the SNAP* fPL* Test is designed to be a rule-out test that prioritizes sensitivity. The new Spec fPL Test reference intervals do not impact SNAP fPL Test sensitivity. Recommendations around the SNAP assay will not change. A normal result helps to rule out pancreatitis. An abnormal result combined with clinical signs indicates that the cat may have pancreatitis, and follow-up with a quantitative Spec fPL Test is recommended.

How will this impact the trending of laboratory results?

The actual methodology of testing has not changed. You can directly compare earlier results to new results.



Contacting IDEXX

Laboratory Customer Support

If you have any questions regarding test codes, turnaround time, or pricing, please contact our Laboratory Customer Support Team.

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