



Canine Brucellosis IFA Kit

(Catalog BCG-120)

Performance Characteristics

SENSITIVITY

In-house testing of known positive sera has been limited to those donated by state reference laboratories in the United States. This collection of 37 sera, known to be positive for canine brucellosis, were tested by IFA. All 37 were positive, with titers ranging from 1:200 to >1:1600 (100%).

Testing by the Texas Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) in 1995 compared IFA with the tube agglutination test (TAT). Sera were screened by IFA at 1:50, but utilized an FITC conjugate with light chain activity. Compared to the tube agglutination test, IFA detected 56/60 TAT-positive sera (sensitivity: 93%)

SPECIFICITY

In-house specificity testing was performed using 96 random sera submitted to a reference testing laboratory in Southern California. All 96 sera tested negative at both 1:16 and 1:50 screening dilutions using the Fc-specific anti-IgG conjugate (100%). This affinity-purified conjugate is a standard component of the Canine Brucellosis IFA Kit

Comparison with the tube agglutination test, (see above) was performed at TVMDL using 428 TAT-negative sera. Of these 7/428 sera were IFA positive at 1:50, but negative at 1:100, using the conjugate with light chain activity.

Anecdotal reports suggest that IFA titers less than 1:200 are generally negative by the reference agar-gel diffusion test (AGID) against *Brucella canis* cytoplasmic antigens. It is therefore recommended that only IFA titers exceeding 1:200 be confirmed by AGID testing. As endpoint titers between 1:50 -1:100 are rather unusual, they should be followed with further testing and clinical suspicion.