

IN BRIEF



PET ALLERGY WEEK IS BACK!

Due to a successful launch in 2015, Pet Allergy Week is back! From the **6th to 12th June 2016**, we're giving veterinary practices the opportunity to raise awareness of allergies in dogs and cats.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Practices can sign up to receive a **'PAW pack'**, full of promotional display materials to create an exciting and informative **waiting room display**, with the most creative display **winning a prize!** All registered practices will also be entitled to a **discount** on all Complete and Complete+ canine and feline allergy tests submitted throughout the whole month of June.

For more information on how to register for PAW, what's new for 2016 and our fab competition, see page 4.



BSAVA

Visit **Stand 710** to learn about our new innovations and products.



- NEW equine allergy tests – allergen panels more relevant to the UK
- Register for Pet Allergy Week (PAW) 2016, and raise your clients awareness of allergies with a NEW waiting room display
- NEW Natural VetCare Prescribed range of nutraceuticals. See this exciting range on display for the first time and place your orders (there are some exciting launch offers)
- Find out more about multimarker algorithm-based tests;
 - Canine Lymphoma Blood Test (cLBT) – assist in the diagnosis and remission monitoring of canine lymphoma.
 - NEW canine pancreatitis test (cPAN) – rapid test for acute canine pancreatitis, and the only test for canine pancreatitis that has been validated against two gold standard methods; histology and blinded clinical assessment.
 - Don't miss the clinical abstract slot on Friday afternoon entitled 'Development of an algorithmic approach to the diagnosis of acute canine pancreatitis'.

PLUS, complete your exhibition voucher for your chance to win a £100 Amazon Gift Voucher!

WHAT'S NEW AT AVACTA

- Read about our enhanced Equine Allergy test. See page 2
- Free Allergy Webinar - On April 21st - Register now! See page 2
- New cLBT case study - Read all about Dyllan Pilkington. See page 4
- Development of the new cPAN Test. See page 5
- Natural VetCare is launched! For more on the veterinary exclusive Prescribed range. See page 6

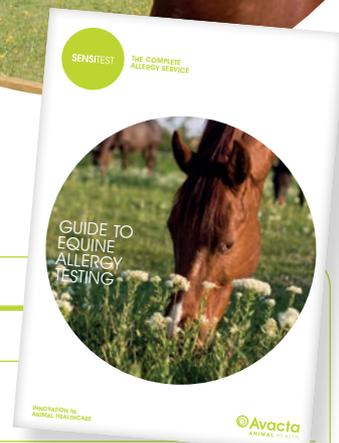
ENHANCED EQUINE ALLERGY TEST



Over recent months our R&D team have been working on the re-development of our Equine Allergy Tests and these efforts have culminated in an enhanced service to you.

The allergen panels have been extended to incorporate the major allergens in the UK and North European climatic zones. In our development trials all these allergens were found to show some level of reactivity in horses with clinical signs compatible with allergic disease.

Whilst our competitors are reducing the number of allergens in their panels and providing only a global range of allergens, we believe it is vital to include these native species of allergenic plants and insects.



Test	ALLERGENS
Insects	Black Fly, Culicoides, Mosquito, Horse Fly, House Fly, Stable Fly
Food	Alfalfa, Barley, Cod Liver Oil, Carrot, Corn (maize), Flaxseed, Oats, Pea, Rye, Sugar Beet, Soybean, Wheat
Environmental	<p>GRASS POLLENS: Meadow Fescue, Meadow Grass (Kentucky bluegrass), Orchard Grass (cocksfoot), Perennial Rye, Sweet Vernal, Timothy</p> <p>WEED POLLENS: Clover, Daisy, Dandelion, Dock yellow/curly, Lamb's Quarter, Mugwort, Nettle, Oil Seed Rape, Plantain, Ragweed</p> <p>TREE POLLENS: Alder, Ash, Beech, Birch, Hazel, Horse Chestnut, Oak, Privet, Scots Pine, Sycamore, Willow</p> <p>INDOOR: <i>Alternaria alternata</i>, <i>Aspergillus</i> mix, <i>Cladosporium herbarum</i>, <i>Penicillium</i> mix, Grain Mill Dust, <i>D. pteronyssinus</i>, <i>D. farinae</i>, <i>E. mayneii</i>, <i>L. destructor</i>, <i>A. siro</i>, <i>T. putrescentiae</i></p>
Food, Environmental and Insects	ALL OF THE ABOVE

NEW Screening Test available for Environmental (grasses, weeds, trees, indoor) and Insect allergens. This provides a simple positive/negative result for each panel with the option to upgrade on any positive panel. This more economic option is ideal for non-insured clients.

For more information and to get a copy of our NEW Equine Guide To Allergy Brochure ask your territory manager or call Customer Services 0800 8494 550.

REGISTER FOR OUR FREE ALLERGY WEBINAR

MANAGING THE PRURITIC DOG AND CAT IN THE LIGHT OF THE LATEST RESEARCH: DON'T FORGET THE BASICS FOR OPTIMAL RESULTS.

Presented by Professor Richard Halliwell on Thursday 21st April at 1pm

Register your place now at:
www.avactaanimalhealth.com/allergywebinar

This webinar will first review the spectacular advances made in the past few years in our understanding of the pathways that initiate the sensation of itch. In particular the demonstration that interleukin-31 (IL-31) plays a pivotal role was truly ground-breaking, and has led to the development of new products to target this molecule –

one already released and others either on the drawing board or undergoing clinical trials in dogs and people. The mode and site of action of these and other older therapeutic products will be described, although the clinician must be careful to use such products in the correct context. To ensure the best clinical outcomes, a structured basic diagnostic approach is essential before deciding on the preferred treatment options. Such an approach will be described for both the dog and cat.

To view Avacta's full webinar catalogue please visit
www.avactaanimalhealth.com/cpd-seminars



SENSITEST

IN EACH ISSUE OUR KEY OPINION LEADERS PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO THE LATEST ANIMAL HEALTH TOPICS WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE OF INTEREST.

IN THIS EDITION **PROFESSOR RICHARD E W HALLIWELL TALKS** ORAL CICLOSPORIN AND INCREASED SERUM LEVELS OF ALLERGEN-SPECIFIC IgE.



Our consultant
Professor Richard E W Halliwell
MA VetMB PhD DECVD MRCVS
provides us with his précis of the
latest dermatology papers

VOLUNTARY ACCEPTANCE AND CONSUMPTION OF TWO ORAL CICLOSPORIN FORMULATIONS IN DOGS: TWO RANDOMISED, CONTROLLED STUDIES

C Navarro, N Crastes, E Benizeau and D McGahie
Irish Veterinary Journal 68: 3, 2015.

Summary: This study assessed the palatability of a liquid formulation of ciclosporin (Cyclavance®, Virbac) as compared with the original Atopica® capsules, which are both used for the treatment of canine atopic dermatitis. Sixty dogs of various breeds were divided into two groups, and received the appropriate dose of either drug for 3 days, followed by 3 day washout period and then 3 days of the alternate formulation in a meal of dry dog food. The time taken to ingest the product was recorded as < 2 seconds, > 2 seconds or as not ingested if more than one minute elapsed. In 90.6% of cases, the liquid form was ingested in < 2 seconds, whereas this only occurred in 14.4% of tests in the case of the capsule, which was often spat out by the dogs. Overall, 98.3% of the liquid was voluntarily ingested via the food as opposed to 2.2% of the capsules. In a second study using 20 adult beagles, it was confirmed that the liquid could be readily administered via a syringe, whereas the capsule usually required forcible administration with the occasional problem of dogs retaining the capsule in the back of their mouth for subsequent ejection.

Comments: There is increasing interest in delivery of medications for dogs and cats in palatable forms to aid compliance. This is particularly important where long-term or maintenance therapy is envisioned. Results of this study have confirmed that the liquid formulation evaluated was indeed palatable, and one could be confident of its voluntary acceptance when added to dried food, and it was also readily accepted when administered orally via a syringe.

PREVALENCE OF AND RISK FACTORS FOR INCREASED SERUM LEVELS OF ALLERGEN-SPECIFIC IgE IN A POPULATION OF NORWEGIAN DOGS

AA Bjelland, FJ Dolva, A Nodtvedt and BK Saevik
Acta Veterinaria Scandinavica 56: 81, 2014

Summary: This study analysed the results of serology for allergen-specific IgE in sera from 1313 Norwegian dogs suspected to be suffering from canine atopic dermatitis (CAD) using the Fc Epsilon receptor assay. Positive results to one or more allergens were seen in 84.3%, with a predominance of reactions to indoor allergens. Thus 80.2% was positive to *Dermatophagoides farinae* (DF) and 84% to *Acarus siro* (which often cross-reacts with DF). Positive reactions to outdoor allergens were seen in 45.3% of cases, with only 8.0% being positive to outdoor allergens alone. Amongst these, reactions were most commonly seen to sheep sorrel, followed by a number of grasses and then beech. The majority of reacting dogs were aged between one and four years of age, with 4.1% being between 6 and 12 months and one dog below 6 months. Females were significantly more likely to react positively (86.6% vs 82.2%) and this trend was even more significant amongst those reacting to outdoor allergens alone (50.9% vs 40%). There was a higher proportion of animals that reacted when sampled in the summer and autumn as compared with winter and spring – a trend that was true both in respect of indoor and outdoor allergens.

Comments: This was one of the largest surveys of IgE allergen-specific serology to be published, and there are strong similarities to the experiences in the UK. Outdoor allergens appear in both countries to be of much lesser importance than are indoor allergens – a situation with contrasts with North America. It was very interesting to note a significant sex bias in favour of females – this had been noted in some earlier studies of CAD but had not been apparent in more recent studies. Noteworthy was the higher incidence of positive reactions seen in samples submitted in the autumn and winter – a trend that was true for both indoor and outdoor allergens. This should perhaps cause clinicians to think further about the timing of sampling – or possibly of resubmitting samples from cases where there is a strong suspicion of CAD later in the year if an initial test proves negative.

EVENTS

7th - 10th
April 2016

BSAVA, Birmingham
Come and see us on Stand 710

31st May -
4th June 2016

8th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology, Bordeaux, France
Avacta Health will be exhibiting and our Senior Research Scientist, Jennifer Bexley will be presenting a supporting original study on food allergen cross-reactivity.

22nd & 23rd
June 2016

Vets North, Manchester
We will be exhibiting at their new location.

ARTUVET VISIT

The Avacta Customer Services Team visited our Immunotherapy Vaccine supplier - Artuvet in Lelystad, Netherlands.

During the visit they learned more about the preparation of allergen-specific prescriptions and how to answer queries on this form of therapy.



NEW! cLBT CASE STUDY

DYLLAN PILKINGTON

"Dyllan remains very well and has had no lymphadenopathy since starting CHOP protocol first time around."

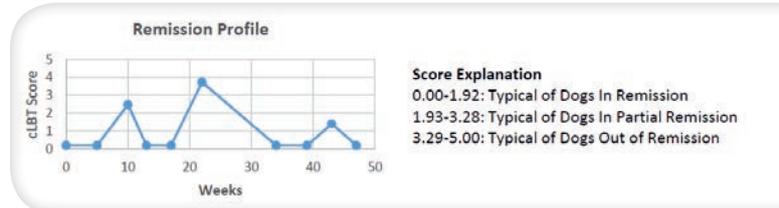
Tom Forsyth, Highcliff
Veterinary Practice,
Brantham

HISTORY: Dyllan Pilkington, a 9 year old Cocker Spaniel, was presented to Tom Forsyth of the Highcliff Veterinary Practice in Brantham. Diagnosed with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma by flow cytometry on 1st May 2014, Dyllan had chemotherapy using the CHOP protocol, finishing with a final doxorubicin infusion on the 18th November 2014.

ACTION: The canine Lymphoma Blood Test (cLBT) was used for monitoring every month, starting on the 19th November 2014 with a score of 0.19, indicating Dyllan was in remission.

RESULTS: As demonstrated in the remission profile image, in the first months following chemotherapy, Dyllan's cLBT score remained <1.92 (in remission), apart from a spike in week 10, where Dyllan had been bitten by another dog and in-turn the bite became infected, resulting in the biomarkers rising. This emphasised the need to interpret the result, whilst considering other inflammatory factors and although there was a rise in cLBT at this point, it was still below the full out of remission threshold. Dyllan's results again remained stable until April 2015's cLBT, which indicated a high

score of 3.73 (out of remission). Although Dyllan showed no clinical symptoms, the cLBT detected a rise in levels and because of this, in May 2015, Dyllan started a 9 week CHOP rescue protocol. Tom explained "rescue CHOP started on the basis of the rise of the cLBT; there was no clinical sign he was coming out of remission". The CHOP rescue protocol successfully finished in July 2015, with a cLBT indicating he was in remission with a score of 0.19. Tom added "Dyllan remains very well and has had no lymphadenopathy since starting CHOP protocol first time around." Tom now continues to monitor Dyllan monthly using the cLBT as demonstrated in the remission profile below, showing his latest test on October 14th had a score in remission.



MORE ON PAW...



HOW TO REGISTER?

Sign up today via your local territory manager, through our customer service team, or complete the form online at: www.avactaanimalhealth.com/PAW

DISCOUNTED TESTS

The PAW pack will also contain a sheet of discount stickers which you simply stick on the submission form to claim your discount. We're offering the Complete Allergy Test for £125 (usual price £189) and the Complete Plus Allergy Test for £155 (usual price £279). More information on how to submit a test will be included in your PAW pack.

WHATS NEW?

- We have a brand new design for this year's waiting room display so you can get your creative hats on again!
- We are spreading the awareness and this year we're proud supporters of Jerry Green Dog Rescue, based in North Yorkshire.
- Why not try and make the most of PAW this year by doing some of our 'optional extras', for example offering 'free skin clinics'. Full details of these suggestions can be found in the covering letter of your PAW pack.

COMPETITION

All practices who create their PAW **waiting room display**, will have the opportunity to send us a picture. The practice that shows the best use of materials will win a prize!

Please email pictures, along with your practice details to marketing@avacta.com

Don't forget to sign up!
 Visit www.avactaanimalhealth.com/PAW or call your territory manager today.

Sign-up deadline Friday 6th May

Last years winners -
 Charlton Kings Veterinary Practice



TEST REVIEW CYNO/FELI-DIAL

Avacta is working in proud partnership with Galileo Diagnostics (France) to offer Cyno-Dial and Feli-Dial, an innovative unique test that assists in the selection of a veterinary prescribed diet for an elimination dietary trial.

The next step after a SENSITEST® food allergy test, the Cyno/Feli-Dial detects the presence of specific IgE for each of the allergenic proteins contained in the animals' existing diet.

So what are the key benefits?

- Additional dietary analysis.
- Cyno-DIAL (canine) and Feli-DIAL (feline) assess which diets the animal is **not** sensitised to.
- Unique technology analyses the animal's current diet, serum and choice of alternative veterinary diets.

For more information on this exclusive test please contact your local territory manager www.avactaanimalhealth.com/contact or call our customer service team on **0800 8494 550**.



Galileo
Diagnostics

DIAGNOSING CASES OF ACUTE CANINE PANCREATITIS

Despite the prevalence and seriousness of pancreatitis, diagnosis of the disease represents a major challenge to veterinary practices. The lack of a good reference gold standard is the biggest obstacle for those trying to develop reliable and sensitive diagnostic tests for pancreatitis. For many diseases, histopathology is the recognised gold standard, however, this is not possible for pancreatitis since taking a biopsy from the pancreas has a high risk of inducing the disease. The situation is further exacerbated by the complex nature of pancreatitis resulting in the numerous common presentations of the disease.

Absence of suitable gold standards has led to most tests for pancreatitis being compared to each other (e.g. the variety of lipase tests available to practitioners), rather than to unequivocal measures of pancreatic damage. However, in studies which compare these methods with the best reference methods available, canine pancreatic lipase immunoreactivity tests were found to be wanting (Mansfield *et al*). Such studies confirm what practitioners already observe, that many existing tests lack adequate sensitivity.

In an attempt to standardise assessment of canine pancreatitis in a research setting, McCord *et al* devised a scoring system which takes into consideration the complexity of the disease. It involves presentation of standardised clinical information to a group of internal medicine specialists, each of whom have extensive experience of diagnosing pancreatitis. Parameters include clinical signs at presentation, blood biochemistry and haematology profiles, plus ultrasound and x-ray data. Each specialist then scores each patient based upon interpretation of the likelihood of the dog having pancreatitis. The mode score from all the specialists represents the McCord Score which ranges from 0 to 4. Scores greater than 2 are indicative of the dog having pancreatitis.

Clearly the McCord process is a research tool which is not appropriate for first opinion practice. However, it supports expert opinion which clearly states that reliance on more than one test should always be used to arrive at a diagnosis of pancreatitis.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW SENSITEST® cPAN TEST

The new Avacta canine pancreatitis (cPAN) test uses a combination of serum biochemistry markers linked together via a diagnostic algorithm. It therefore represents a convenient means of combining a variety of data to assist in the diagnostic work up of pancreatitis in dogs. We evaluated the cPAN test using both the McCord Score and post mortem histopathology and have

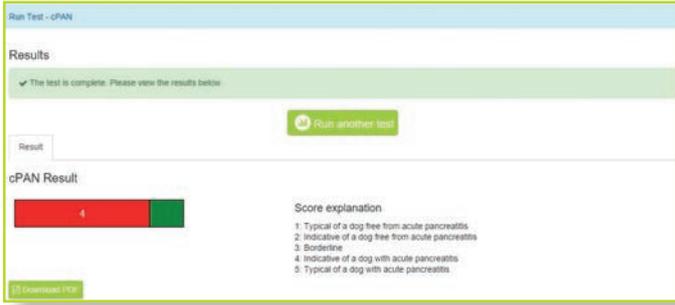
demonstrated that the test exhibits greater sensitivity and specificity than canine pancreatic lipase immunoreactivity when compared to these two gold standard clinical measures of the disease.

The algorithm can be accessed by a unique “pay per click” website which allows you to enter the values which can be conveniently obtained from your laboratory reports, and at the click of a button return a result of whether the dog’s values are indicative of a dog with or free from acute canine pancreatitis. Results can be presented in a PDF and can be saved to access at a later date.



Value	Threshold
Amylase (U/L) 41	45
Lipase (U/L) 100	100
ALP (U/L) 6	6

Figure 1. Enter the animal’s details, values and thresholds from your laboratory reports, or the thresholds automatically populate if you select a known lab where your results came from.



cPAN Result: 4

Score explanation:

1. Typical of a dog free from acute pancreatitis
2. Indicative of a dog free from acute pancreatitis
3. Borderline
4. Indicative of a dog with acute pancreatitis
5. Typical of a dog with acute pancreatitis

Figure 2. Your result is displayed instantly with the option to download the result as a PDF.

To receive your first 5 canine pancreatitis tests free and get an exclusive look at our new unique site, please go to <http://www.avactaanimalhealth.com/canine-pancreatitis-test/> and submit your details.

References: 1. J VET Diagn Invest 2012 24: 312
2. J Vet Intern Med 2012;26:888–896

DOWNLOAD OUR ARTICLE ON THE USE OF CRP IN MONITORING CANINE SRMA, BY MARK LOWRIE (MA, VET MB, DIP ECVN, MRCVS)

Acute phase proteins are very sensitive markers of a broad spectrum of inflammatory based diseases. Although not specific for any particular condition, C-reactive protein (CRP) has been successfully used to monitor resolution and recurrence in canine serum responsive-meningitis arteritis (SRMA).

The disease is widely known to respond well to treatment with prednisolone, however, drug side effects frequently mask recovery during the therapeutic phase. Monitoring the dog during this period by cytological examination of cerebrospinal fluid is invasive and has been shown to be unreliable. However, CRP is a useful tool in these circumstances since it can determine whether clinical signs are the result of residual inflammation from SRMA or are due to the adverse effects of prednisolone itself. Monitoring SRMA patients using serum CRP measurements during and after treatment can therefore provide valuable information necessary to tailor therapy to the individual dog.

This article will discuss presentation, breed and age predisposition, diagnosis and treatment of SRMA with specific reference to how serum CRP measurements can aid the clinician throughout this process.

To read the full article visit www.avactaanimalhealth.com/SRMA



MEET THE TEAM

CUSTOMER SERVICES

The Customer Services team are dedicated to supporting our customers and their clients. From processing allergy test results to ordering immunotherapy, assisting vets on how to use our canine Lymphoma Blood Test to discussing elimination diets and other therapies – it's pretty busy and varied work!

The team are all passionate about animal health and this is reflected in their enthusiasm to help you. At Avacta we invest in ensuring the team are fully trained and knowledgeable about our tests, products and services. Here are some of our friendly and professional team...

WHAT WE LIKE ...

EMMA (LEFT)

I really enjoy horse riding and playing competitive netball. I also love walking in the countryside and trying out new recipes in the kitchen at home.

SOPHIE (MIDDLE)

I love walking my dogs, shopping and catching up with friends with a few cocktails!

BETH (RIGHT)

I like going to the gym, cooking, spending time with family and friends and going to the pub!

NATURAL VETCARE IS LAUNCHED!

From March 2016 Natural VetCare Prescribed will be available **exclusively to veterinary practices**, offering the highest standards in nutraceuticals; these are complex formulations to meet the complex demands of skin and joint conditions.

Manufactured in the UK and trusted by vets for over thirty years to support veterinary prescribed treatments with both equine and companion animal supplements, the new Natural VetCare Prescribed range has been developed to support practices in retaining clients. Conveniently available through veterinary wholesalers yet delivered in a format which ensures exclusivity.

Leading the way in support for joint disease and skin sensitivity, Natural VetCare Prescribed focus on the areas of:

- canine joint care (Cani Flex)
- canine senior care (Cani Flex Senior)
- canine skin care (Cani Skin)
- feline skin care (Feli Skin)

The fact each ingredient supports the efficacy of another has been well documented in independent trials and we do not therefore simply rely on one or two well recognised ingredients. The ingredients themselves are proven to have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, gut support and targeted nutritional benefits. Each ingredient has hundreds of individual components, with the formulation delivering the right complexity and optimum ratio of carriers and actives to synergistically establish immune system homeostasis within the body.

For more information contact our customer services department on **0800 8494 550** or contact your local territory manager. Find details at www.avactaanimalhealth.com/contact



CONTACT US

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