

Can you titer puppies?



YES YOU CAN!

Puppies get antibodies from their mum during the first 24 hours. This is the maternal immunity. A vaccination does not work if the maternal immunity is still high. Maternal immunity may drop by 6 weeks or can still stay in the body even at 20 weeks. Titering means knowledge by measuring! Titer at 6, 9 & 12 weeks to see if the maternal antibodies are still high for Hepatitis, Distemper & Parvo. Good to know that the maternal antibodies of Parvo stays mostly longer in the body than the ones of Distemper & Hepatitis. The most important and dangerous one is Parvo. The diseases Hepatitis and Distemper are yet very rare.

There's no use in vaccinating if the antibodies are still high. You only vaccinate when one or more of them are low.

A pup which is vaccinated at the right time only needs 1 instead of the usual 3 puppy-vaccinations. Titer 4 weeks after the vaccination to measure if the pup is protected. If so, than you can titer again around the age of 1 to see if the dog is still protected.

A pup vaccinated when the maternal immunity is low, is likely to be protected for life and possible doesn't have to be vaccinated for Hepatitis, Distemper or Parvo ever again!

Why should you titer rather than over-vaccinate?



Strong titers are a more reliable indication of immunity than vaccination. They show the actual immune response for that disease.

Titer to avoid vaccine damage or vaccinosis caused by the nasty adjuvants in vaccinations (formaline, thimerosal = mercury, aluminiumhydroxide) like:

- * allergic reaction like swelling
- * itching
- * (bloody) diarrhea
- * muscle and joint disease
- * discopondylitis or hernia
- * damage to the immune system, like allergies
- * lymphosarcoma (enlarged spleen and lymph)
- * meningitis / encephalitis (epilepsy)
- * inflammatory conditions
- * auto-immune disorders (like hypothyroidism, diabetes, skin-diseases)
- * cancer and fibrosarcoma
- * behaviour changes (separation anxiety, fear of noises, reactivity/aggression, eating inedible things like wood, stones, cotton, defecation...)
- * Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- * shock
- * all reactions can be very serious or even deadly



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What is a titer test?



Titer tests are blood tests performed by a vet. The test measures a dog's antibodies to Canine Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus.

High levels of antibodies indicate high levels of protection against these infectious diseases. Titer testing allows an owner to be confident their dog is protected without the need for unnecessary vaccinations and associated risks. There is only a few drop of blood needed if done by a titer test like VacciCheck®.

Reasons for titer testing

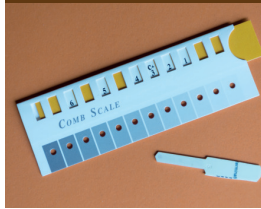
1. To determine that animal is protected (suggested by a positive test result)
2. To identify a susceptible animal (suggested by a negative test result)
3. To determine whether an individual animal has responded to a vaccine
4. To determine whether an individual vaccine is effectively immunizing animals

from: Schultz RD, Ford RB, Olsen J, Scott F. Vet Med, 97: 1-13, 2002

What can & what can't be titered?

- ✓ - Distemper (Canine Distemper Virus or CDV)
- ✓ - Infectious Canine Hepatitis (Canine Adeno Virus or CAV-1 and CAV-2)
- ✓ - Parvo (Canine Parvo Virus or CPV)
- ✓ - Rabies, still the vaccine is obligated by law
- ✗ - Leptospirosis *bacterial infection can't be measured
- ✗ - Kennel Cough

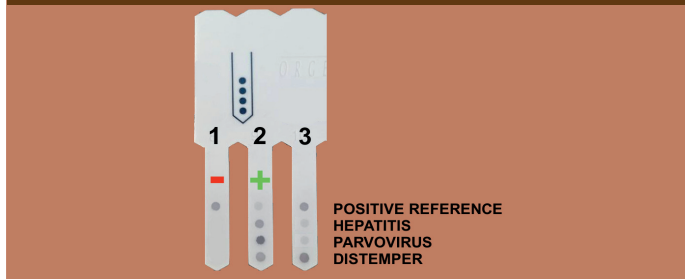
How can results be interpreted?



Keep the titer strip of the VacciCheck® stuck to the wide area with the dots down. There are 4 dots on the titer strip. The 1st dot on the top is the positive reference.

This is the control dot which is the indication of the intensity of the color for the dots below. The next dots indicates the antibodies for Hepatitis, Parvovirus & Distemper. If the color of the dots is the same or darker than the 1st dot, there are enough antibodies. If they are 1 tint lighter it is still ok.

When is the result + or -?



Interpretation of the results in the picture above:
The left strip (n°1) shows an unprotected dog. The dots are nonexistent which means a zero titer.

The 2nd strip shows a high protected dog. The darker colors shows a high amount of antibodies. Vaccinating this dog will be useless!

The 3rd strip shows a high protection for Distemper but no high antibodies for Hepatitis neither for Parvo virus. Most vets will vaccinate this dog for Hepatitis & Parvo, despite the presence of the antibodies.
Dr. R. Schultz says: 'Any circulating antibody indicates immunity! It's a yes or no answer!'

Good to know: WSAVA(*) only requires the presence of antibodies!

* World Small Animal Veterinary Association

When is it useful to titer adult dogs



At the age of 1, the immune system is stable to measure the 'mature' antibodies. A high titer test means high antibodies, so your dog is protected.

WSAVA(*) advises titering every 3 years from the age of 1. When a vaccine is needed and given, titer 4 weeks after the vaccination to know if the vaccine gives protection.

Titer a broodbitch before mating.

Titer a senior dog to avoid giving him unnecessary vaccinations and the possible risks of vaccinosis. Titer every time you want to give a vaccination for Hepatitis, Distemper or Parvo.

You can also titer instead of vaccinating if your dog

- is ill
- is pregnant
- has epilepsy
- has skin-diseases (30% is auto-immune disease)
- takes medication like AB / Prednison
- had surgery recently or will have surgery in the near future

The values must be mentioned in the pet's passport, with an end date and signature & stamp of the vet. Only then it is valid.

Titer also cats and horses



Cats:

- * Feline Parvo Virus
- * Feline Herpesvirus -1
- * Feline Calicivirus
- * Rabies Virus

Horses:

- * Equine Influenza Virus
- * Equine Herpesvirus
- * Equine Encephalitis
- * Rabies Virus