



The Gastrointestinal Laboratory
Texas A&M University
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences



October 13, 2008

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you very much for submitting samples from your patients to our laboratory! For several years the GI Lab at Texas A&M has run the feline pancreatic lipase immunoreactivity test exclusively. However, this has limited the usefulness of this test as all samples had to be shipped to us. In order to improve turn-around time and regional availability we have collaborated with IDEXX Laboratories to develop a commercial assay, Spec fPL[®]. The assay is based on the original technology and thus has the same diagnostic performance of the original fPLI assay.

With the introduction of Spec fPL we will be offering the measurement of serum Spec fPL concentrations as a panel for initial submissions for all patients. Currently, we offer the following panels:

- 1) Feline PLI (as measured by Spec fPL)/fTLI
- 2) Feline PLI (as measured by Spec fPL)/cobalamin/folate
- 3) Feline PLI (as measured by Spec fPL)/TLI/cobalamin/folate

Please note that rechecks on the same patient can still be limited to a serum Spec fPL assay (please mark the submission form accordingly).

Spec fPL Interpretive Ranges and Comments

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| $\leq 3.5 \mu\text{g/L}$ | Serum Spec fPL concentration is in the normal range. It is unlikely that the cat has pancreatitis. Investigate for other diseases that could cause observed clinical signs. |
| $3.6 - 5.3 \mu\text{g/L}$ | Serum Spec fPL concentration is increased. The cat may have pancreatitis and Spec fPL should be reevaluated in two weeks if clinical signs persist. Investigate for other diseases that could cause observed clinical signs. |
| $\geq 5.4 \mu\text{g/L}$ | Serum Spec fPL concentration is consistent with pancreatitis. The cat most likely has pancreatitis. Consider investigating for risk factors and concurrent diseases (e.g., IBD, hepatitis, Diabetes mellitus). Periodic monitoring of Spec fPL may help assess response to therapy. |

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns (phone: 979-862-2861; FAX: 979-862-2864; e-mail: gilab@cvm.tamu.edu). Thank you very much for your patronage!

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Disclaimer:

“Lisa Taylor-Austin believes there was merit to her claims that Dr. Deforge negligently cared for her cat, Simba, and that he misrepresented whether he was a Board-certified dental specialist. Dr. Deforge denies these claims and asserts that the Department of Public Health’s veterinary board cleared him of any wrong doing. However, Dr Deforge agreed to pay \$7,500.00 to compensate Ms. Taylor-Austin because he believed the risks inherent in any lawsuit and the cost of missing two weeks from his practice made it imprudent to go to trial.”

Note: My guardian’s costs for my medical care and all legal avenues exceeded \$20,000.