

FELINE RESPIRATORY DISEASE PCR

**Chlamydophila felis, Herpesvirus,
Calicivirus, Bordetella Bronchiseptica**

SAMPLE REQUIRED:

Dry cotton swab in sterile container (no transport media)

Test Use:

This test is based on PCR technology, designed to identify the presence or absence of these infectious agents. The PCR test is the preferred test for these infections, with both good sensitivity and specificity. It is important to note however, that due to the nature of these organisms, false negative results are possible. To maximise the possibility of successful recovery of organisms, samples should be collected during the acute phase of infection and prior to any therapy. Chronicity of infection and therapy (especially for Chlamydia) will lead to a lowering of virus/Chlamydia particle production.

Protocol:

- NOTE: The sample should be collected before any use of fluorescein and should be transported dry, not in any transport medium. Both fluorescein and transport media may interfere with the test procedure.
- A swab is used to obtain a sample from affected areas, most commonly the conjunctival sac and oropharynx. Visible lesions in the nasal and oral cavities should be sampled. Local anaesthetic drops can be used if the cat is fractious.
- The swab should be moistened with sterile saline and rubbed vigorously across the affected areas/conjunctival sac in an effort to obtain epithelial cells that may contain infectious organisms.
- Place the swab into a sterile sealed container and store at 4°C until transport to the lab.