Feline Hemotropic Mycoplasma (FHM) Test
(formerly Haemobartonella)

FHM is a common cause of severe hemolytic anemia in cats. In a recent study, 12.7% of healthy blood donor pet cats were infected with feline hemotropic mycoplasmas, and the rate was higher for outdoor cats and cats exposed to fleas. Until now diagnosing feline hemotropic mycoplasmosis (formerly hemobartonellosis or feline infectious anemia) has been a challenge.

With the new IDEXX RealPCR™ FHM Test, you can take the guesswork out of diagnosing the cause of feline anemia. By routinely performing this test on your anemic patients, you can quickly begin treating infected cats or rule out an FHM infection.

An IDEXX Reference Laboratories study shows that:
• Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is up to nine times more sensitive than microscopic evaluation and can support your diagnosis of significantly more cases.
• Visual slide review cannot distinguish FHM species, but real-time PCR can. Because the pathogenicity of FHM species differs, IDEXX RealPCR helps you determine the significance of an FHM infection, which may affect case management, including the pursuit of additional diagnostics and treatment.

Most pathogenic: Mycoplasma haemofelis
Moderately pathogenic: Candidatus Mycoplasma turicensis
Least pathogenic: Candidatus Mycoplasma haemominutum
• The specificity, sensitivity and speed of real-time PCR make this test far more accurate and reliable than manual slide review for diagnosing feline hemotropic mycoplasmosis.

Compare the methods below to see how real-time PCR detects infections that a manual slide review can miss.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive for any species: 88 (29.0%)</th>
<th>Positives found by IDEXX RealPCR</th>
<th>Positives found by slide review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positives by species or species combination</td>
<td>Mhf: 21 (6.9%)</td>
<td>CaMh: 41 (13.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mhf = Mycoplasma haemofelis
CaMh = Candidatus Mycoplasma haemominutum
CaMt = Candidatus Mycoplasma turicensis

a. All samples were whole blood from cats with hematocrit less than 25%.
Take the guesswork out of diagnosing the cause of feline anemia.

Consider performing the IDEXX RealPCR™ FHM Test on the following cats to get definitive answers on this potentially life-threatening infection:

**Cats with regenerative anemia where there’s no obvious bleeding** — Blood loss and hemolysis are the two main causes of a regenerative anemia. If there’s no evidence of bleeding, hemolysis is most likely and FHM must be ruled out.

**FeLV-positive cats with anemia** — A regenerative or nonregenerative anemia can be present with a concurrent FeLV infection. Persistent infections with feline hemotropic mycoplasmas in these cats may promote myeloproliferative disorders.\(^2\)

**Cats with other chronic illnesses where nonregenerative anemia is worse than expected** — Typically, FHM results in a regenerative anemia. But if the cat has a concurrent illness that limits its bone marrow response to anemia (e.g., renal failure, neoplasia), the anemia may appear nonregenerative. FHM may compound or complicate the anemia present from the chronic illness.

**Cats with nonregenerative anemia where there is no apparent cause** — If primary bone marrow disease is suspected, consider ruling out FHM prior to or concurrently with performing a bone marrow aspirate—in case it’s the sole cause of or contributing to the anemia.

**Blood donor cats** — All blood donor cats should be screened for FHM to prevent infection of blood recipients.

Ordering the IDEXX RealPCR™ FHM Test is easy—just add it to your IDEXX Reference Laboratories test order form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>test code</th>
<th>name and contents</th>
<th>specimen requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FHMD</td>
<td><strong>Feline Hemotropic Mycoplasma (FHM)</strong> (formerly <em>Haemobartonella</em>) Test</td>
<td>2 mL EDTA whole blood, lavender-top tube. Keep refrigerated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mycoplasma haemofelis, *Candidatus* Mycoplasma haemominutum and *Candidatus* Mycoplasma turicensis

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