

## **FAQ's for the CervidTB Stat-Pak® (Stat-Pak) and the Cervid Dual Path Platform (DPP) tests for bovine tuberculosis**

### **Q. What are the CervidTB Stat-Pak Antibody and the DPP tests?**

A. The Cervid TB Stat-Pak® Antibody Test is a serologic test used to screen for bovine TB in captive cervids. The DPP® is a more specific serologic test used when animals have non-negative results on the Stat-Pak test. When used together, the Stat-Pak and DPP have a higher specificity rate than do the skin tests.

### **Q. Which cervid species can I use the Stat-Pak and the secondary DPP tests on?**

A. The Stat-Pak and secondary DPP test are approved for use in elk, red deer, white tail deer, fallow deer, and reindeer. The tests are not approved for use in any other cervid species at this time.

### **Q. How does the performance of the Stat-Pak compare to the single cervical tuberculin skin test (SCT)?**

A. The performance of the Stat-Pak is not significantly different than the single cervical test (SCT) in uninfected red deer, elk, whitetail deer, fallow deer and reindeer. The Stat-Pak appears to detect the same or a higher percentage of naturally infected elk, red deer and white-tailed deer, when compared to the SCT. There are too few naturally infected reindeer to evaluate the performance of the test in this species.

### **Q. Is there any benefit in using the Stat-Pak over single cervical tuberculin (SCT) skin tests?**

A. The Stat-Pak is a TB test requiring only one handling event. SCT skin tests require the handling of cervids on two different occasions: one for tuberculin injection and the second for interpreting the test results.

### **Q. What type of sample is required for the test?**

A. For each cervid tested, at least 2 ml of refrigerated blood serum must be submitted in a serum collection tube.

### **Q. Who is authorized to collect and submit samples?**

A. Only *Designated Accredited Veterinarians* who have received supplemental training on TB testing and the Stat-Pak testing are authorized to collect and submit samples.

**Q. I am an accredited veterinarian, but have not been trained as a Designated Accredited Veterinarian. May I submit samples using the Stat-Pak test?**

A. No. At this time, you must be a *Designated Accredited Veterinarian* who has received supplemental Stat-Pak test training in order to collect and submit samples using the Stat-Pak test on cervids.

**Q. How can I become a Designated Accredited Veterinarian?**

A. Contact your local APHIS Veterinary Services Area Office to receive information on the supplemental Stat-Pak test training and to become a Designated Accredited Veterinarian. A list of Area Offices can be found at:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/area\\_offices/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/)

**Q. If I am a Designated Accredited Veterinarian, may I choose either the SCT skin test or the Stat-Pak test to assess the status of TB in cervids?**

A. Either test may be used. However, animals that are non-negative on the Stat-Pak will be retested with the DPP and animals that are reactors on the SCT will be retested with the CCT.

**Q. Why is additional training needed if the test only involves submitting a blood sample?**

A. In order to perform TB testing of any kind (skin testing, serological testing, etc.) in cervids, a veterinarian must be knowledgeable not only in technique, but also in the regulations under the National TB Eradication Program. Additionally, many tests that are performed must adhere to additional requirements such as for import/export and establishing and maintaining accredited cervid herds.

**Q. Can I send the serum sample to any laboratory for testing?**

A. No. Serum samples must be sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa. Be sure to obtain permission from your Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) in your State to submit the sample(s) to NVSL prior to sample shipment. AVIC's can be contacted at the local Area Office.

**Q. Do all States accept the Stat-Pak and DPP as official TB tests for cervid herd accreditation and import purposes?**

A. You must verify with your State or the importing State to determine if their animal health regulations allow the use of these tests as an official testing method for cervids.

**Q. If I am also testing a cervid for brucellosis, may I collect one blood sample and have it tested for both TB and brucellosis?**

A. No. When also testing a cervid for brucellosis, an additional tube of blood must be collected and submitted to an approved brucellosis testing laboratory accompanied by a VS Form 4-33. VS Form 4-33 can be found at:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/forms.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/forms.shtml).

**Q. The test is advertised as a chute-side test, why does the sample have to be submitted to a lab? Can I obtain the test kit and perform the test?**

A. No. The Stat-Pak test performance was evaluated under controlled laboratory conditions. At this time, APHIS has approved the test for use at the NVSL. APHIS plans to evaluate test performance, including how it is impacted by being conducted in a field setting, such as chute-side. If these evaluations indicate that the test performance would not be adversely affected, broader use of the test will be considered.

**Q. What happens if the Stat-Pak test result is non-negative?**

A. If the Stat Pak has a non-negative (i.e., a positive or inconclusive result), NVSL will perform the secondary DPP serological test using the serum from the same sample that was originally submitted. If the DPP result is non-negative, an epidemiological investigation will be done and the disposition of the animal will be determined by the area and regional TB epidemiologists according to regulations under the National TB Eradication Program.

**Q. Can cervids that respond to the SCT skin test then be re-tested with the Stat-Pak?**

A. No. Cervids that are responders on the single cervical skin test must be retested using the comparative cervical skin test (CCT). Likewise, cervids non-negative on the Stat-Pak test must be retested using the DPP secondary test.

**Q. Can accredited veterinarians or producers obtain the Stat-Pak test for their own use as an “unofficial test”?**

A. No. Any tuberculosis test conducted in species under the National TB Eradication Program is an official test as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 9, Part 77. All results must be reported to State animal health officials within a specified time after the test was administered.

**Q. May I perform the Stat-Pak test on animals that have only producer tags as identification?**

A. No. Official identification recognized by APHIS must be present on each animal tested with the Stat-Pak. Identification numbers must be recorded on the VS 10-4/10-4a and VS 6-22 to correspond to the sample submitted for testing.

**Q. How much does the Stat-Pak test shipping kit cost?**

A. If you choose to order a preassembled Stat-Pak test kit consisting of instructions, a VS 10-4/10-4a Laboratory Submission Form, an ice pack, and a paid shipping label to NVSL, the cost is about \$30.00. You may also submit blood samples utilizing your own compliant shipping box using 24-hour delivery service. The US Postal Service does not deliver directly to NVSL. For more information on how to have a Stat-Pak test kit shipped to you or on compliant shipping boxes, please call (515) 337-6200 or email us at NVSL\_userfee@aphis.usda.gov.

**Q. How much does NVSL charge to run each test?**

A. \$12.00

**Q. Who will pay the fee for NVSL to run the test and how can payment be made?**

A. The Designated Accredited Veterinarian submitting the sample will be responsible for test payment. This may be done by providing a credit card number on the submission form, including a check with the samples and submission form, or setting up an account with NVSL. Call NVSL at (515) 337-6200 for more information.

**Q. How long will it take to get results?**

A. Results will be returned to the submitting Designated Accredited Veterinarian within 5 business days after samples arrive at NVSL.

**Q. How will the test results be provided?**

A. Test results will be provided to the submitting Designated Accredited Veterinarian by email, FAX, or mail. Veterinarians may specify preferred methods for receiving results on the submission form or when they set up their account with NVSL.