



Neospora caninum Immunofluorescent Antibody Test (IFAT) – individual test

Neospora caninum, an apicomplexan protozoan parasite infection, affects mostly cattle where it may result in abortions. These events may take the form of sporadic or low-level endemic occurrences of abortion, or be of epidemic, “storm-like” proportions. These abortion storms, in particular, can affect large proportions of the at-risk (i.e. in-calf) cow population and cause large economic losses.

A high IFAT titre ($>1:1000$) in a cow that has aborted in the last 2-3 weeks is very strong evidence that *N. caninum* was the cause of the abortion. IFAT titres fall quickly from several thousand to a few hundred over a couple of months following abortion. A low IFAT titre ($<1:200$) in a cow that has aborted in the previous 2-3 weeks rules out *N. caninum* as the cause of abortion.

The IFAT is the most appropriate assay for individual abortion diagnoses, as titres are elevated around the time of abortion and then quickly decline within a matter of weeks. In the dam, an IFAT titre of $\geq 1/600$ is indicative of an association between the abortion and *N. caninum* infection. For investigation of reproductive disease in groups use the *N. caninum* ELISA.



Species:
Bovine



Specimen:
Serum
(minimum 1 ml)



Container:
Plain or gel tube



Collection Protocol:
Standard
venepuncture