ELISA TEST PROCEDURE
PREPARING THE TEST PLATE
a) Remove an anti-p27 antibody coated plate from the protective bag and label appropriately.
b) Directly add 100 µl Negative Control to wells A2, H10 and H12. Do not dilute. Discard pipette tips.
c) Directly add 100 µl Positive Control to wells A1, A3, and H11. Do not dilute. Discard pipette tips.
d) Add approximately 100 µl unknown sample (or two drops of egg albumin) per well as per Figure 1. Start with well A4 and end with well H10 (moving left to right, row by row of wells). For example, wells 1 through 30 contain the samples from flock 1, wells 31-60 contain the samples from flock 2, etc.
e) Incubate plate for 30 minutes at room temperature. (21° to 24°C, 70° to 75°F)

WASH PROCEDURE
f) Tap out liquid from each well into an appropriate vessel containing bleach or other decontamination agent.
g) Using an 8 or 12 channel pipette (or comparable automatic washing device), fill each well with approximately 300 µl Wash Solution. Allow to soak in wells for 3 minutes; then discard contents into an appropriate waste container (waste container should contain bleach solution). Tap inverted well to ensure that all residual liquid is removed. Repeat wash procedure 2 more times for a total of three washes.

NOTE: The wash procedure is a very critical step in any ELISA procedure. Please follow the above steps as directed.

ADDITION OF ANTI-p27 PEROXIDASE CONJUGATE, SUBSTRATE AND STOP SOLUTION
h) Using an 8 or 12 channel pipette (or transrating device) dispense 100 µl diluted conjugate (prepared as described above) into each test well. Discard pipette tips.
i) Incubate for 50 minutes at room temperature. (21° to 24°C, 70° to 75°F)
j) WASH in steps f and g above.
k) Using an 8 or 12 channel pipette (or transrating device) dispense 100 µl Substrate Solution into each test well. Discard pipette tips.
l) Incubate 15 minutes at room temperature. (21° to 24°C, 70° to 75°F)
m) Using an 8 or 12 channel pipette (or transrating device) dispense 100 µl diluted Stop Solution (prepared as described above) into each test well.

Note: Allow bubbles to dissipate before reading plate.

MANUAL PROCESSING OF DATA
a) Read the plate using an ELISA plate reader set at 405/410 nm. Be sure to blank the reader as directed.
b) Calculate the average Positive Control absorbance (Optical Density [O.D.]) using the absorbance values of wells A1, A3 and H11. Calculate the average Negative Control absorbance using values obtained from wells A2, H10 and H12. Record both values.
c) Subtract the average negative absorbance from the average positive absorbance. The difference is the Corrected Positive Control.
d) Calculate a sample to positive (Sp) ratio by subtracting the average negative control absorbance from each sample absorbance. The difference is divided by the corrected positive control. Use the following equation format:

\[
\text{Sp} = \frac{(\text{SAMPLE ABSORBANCE}) - (\text{AVERAGE NEGATIVE CONTROL ABSORBANCE})}{\text{CORRECTED POSITIVE CONTROL ABSORBANCE}}
\]

RESULTS
Assay Control Values
Valid ELISA results are obtained when the average optical density (O.D.) value of the Negative Control is less than 0.250 and the Corrected Positive Control value range is between 0.150 and 1.200. If either of these values are out of range, the ALV test results should be considered invalid and the samples should be retested. Samples testing with an Sp value of less than 0.199 will receive a 0 titer value and are considered negative for p-27 antigen.

Under optimal conditions* the suggested O.D. value ranges of 0.06 to 0.20 for ALV Negative Control and 0.50 to 1.00 for ALV Positive Control should be adhered to ensure the most consistent laboratory test results. Please note that tests with O.D. values which do not fall within the suggested O.D. ranges above do not constitute an invalid test.

*Optimal conditions are at room temperature (70° to 75°F (21° to 24°C)). Higher room temperatures may result in significantly higher O.D. values.

Interpretation of Results
Sp values reported by this system represent comparisons of the unknown antigen level of the sample to the positive control antigen. Therefore, it is important to first determine that the ALV ELISA positive and negative control values obtained are valid as detailed above in the “Assay Control Values” section of this pamphlet before ALV ELISA results are interpreted.

A “0” ALV ELISA value represents a chicken serum sample that contains an extremely low to insignificant p-27 antigen level compared to the ALV ELISA kit positive and negative controls.

An ALV ELISA value above “0” indicates only that a chicken serum sample contains a significant and ELISA-detectable p-27 level compared to the ALV ELISA kit positive and negative controls. However, these values do not imply or ensure “protection” nor provide serologic differentiation between an ALV vaccine response or an ALV field infection.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please contact Zoetis Veterinary Investigations Product Support (VMIPS) team at 1-800-366-5288 with questions and comments.
AVIAN LEUKOSIS VIRUS ANTIGEN TEST KIT

GENERAL INFORMATION AND INTENDED USES

Lymphoid leukemia, caused by Avian Leukosis Virus (ALV) is an insidious but economically important disease of chickens. ALV infection may be associated with lymphoid tumors, decreased egg production and increased nonspecific mortality. ALV is transmitted vertically from hen to chick through the egg and horizontally from bird to bird by direct or indirect contact. The ProFLOX® Avian Leukosis Virus (ALV) antigen test kit offers a rapid method for the detection of ALV p27 antigen in chicken serum and egg albumin.

The assay is designed to measure antigen bound to anti-p27 antibody coated microtiter plates. The principle of the test is as follows: Samples collected from chickens infected with ALV contain specific ALV antigens, including p27. Serum or egg albumin samples are added to an anti-p27 antibody-coated plate. Specific antigen in the sample forms an antibody-antigen complex with the anti-p27 antibody bound to the plate. After washing the plate, an affinity-purified rabbit anti-p27 peroxidase conjugate is added to each well. The antibody-antigen complex remaining from the previous step reacts with the conjugate. After a brief incubation period, the unreacted conjugate is removed by a second wash step. Substrate, which contains a chromagen (ABTS), is added to each well. Chromagen color change (from clear to green-blue) occurs in the presence of the peroxidase enzyme. The relative absorbance at 405-410 nm is measured using an ELISA plate reader. Chromagen color change is a direct indicator of the presence of ALV antigen. The optical density obtained is proportional to the amount of ALV antigen present in the sample. In standard test conditions, the sensitivity of this test is approximately 10 pg/pL of serum or 10 pg in 20 µl of egg albumin.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

a) High precision pipette (i.e. 1-20 microliter pipette)
b) 2 ml, 1.0 ml, and 5.0 ml pipettors
c) 8 or 12 channel pipettor (or translating device) and pipette tips
d) 2 graduated cylinders (50 ml)
e) Laboratory grade (Distilled or R.O.) water
f) 96 well plate reading spectrophotometer with 405-410 nm filter

NOTE: Store all reagents provided in the kit at 2 to 7°C. Reagents should not be frozen.

SAMPLE COLLECTION

Prepare the bird for blood collection by administering a local anesthetic and clipping the wing. Before starting, make sure the sample collection is being conducted under the proper conditions. It is recommended to use a new needle for each bird, as the needle may become contaminated with ALV antigen. Samples should be collected from the wing vein and transferred to a clean centrifuge tube. The tube should be placed on ice and transported to the laboratory as soon as possible. Samples should be collected at standard time intervals (i.e. every four weeks). Proper collection procedures, serum harvest and serum sample storage (4°C for up to four days or -20°C for longer periods) are needed to provide reliable test results.

SAMPLE DILUTION PROCEDURE

Serum or egg albumin samples may be added directly to the antibody coated plate without dilution. Frozen samples should be completely thawed and thoroughly mixed. Set up samples and controls as shown in Figure 1.

Preparation of Controls

An ALV Positive Control and a Negative Control have been provided with this kit in ready-to-use form. Allow the ALV Positive and Negative Control samples to equilibrate to room temperature before use.

NOTE: NO DILUTION OF THE ALV POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CONTROLS IS NEEDED.

Preparation of Conjugate Solution

The horseradish peroxidase conjugated Rabbit anti-p27 antibody is supplied in HRP stabilizer. Dilute 200 µl stock conjugate in 10 ml Dilution Buffer (1:50 dilution). Mix well. This 10 ml preparation will supply sufficient conjugate for one 96 well ELISA plate.

Preparation of Wash Solution

Dilute 20 ml concentrated Wash Solution in 380 ml laboratory grade (distilled or R.O.) water (1:20). Mix well. Approximately 400 ml Wash Solution is needed for each 96 well ELISA plate.

Preparation of the Substrate Solution

The Substrate is ready to use. Each plate will require approximately 10 ml substrate solution. For example, 10 plates required 100 ml substrate. For best results, the substrate solution must be equilibrated to room temperature (21°C to 24°C, 70°F to 75°F) before use.