



# Common Test Considerations for the Shelter

Concern	Testing Considerations	Interpretation Caveats
Upper Respiratory Infections (CIRDC, URI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outbreaks</li> <li>• Increased numbers of animals affected and/or dying</li> <li>• Increased severity of disease</li> <li>• Unusual clinical signs</li> </ul>	Positive PCR results may not directly correlate with the causative agent of active infection.
Feline Retroviruses (FIV/FeLV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cat is sick with suspicious clinical signs</li> <li>• History of overcrowded environment or known exposure</li> <li>• Considering co-housing</li> </ul>	Interpretation of positive results in healthy cats is difficult due to the low prevalence of these diseases in many communities and the biological course of disease in the individual cat.
Parasites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspicious clinical signs and lack of response to empirical deworming</li> </ul>	<p>Microscopy-based tests have low sensitivity, so a negative fecal float does not fully rule out parasites due to variable shedding.</p> <p>The low specificity of ELISA or PCR can lead to false positive, non-diagnostic positive results; for example, animals no longer shedding Giardia may still test positive on antigen tests.</p>
Parvoviruses (CPV and FPV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspicious clinical signs</li> <li>• Sudden death</li> <li>• Many animals affected or dying</li> <li>• Risk assessment in outbreaks</li> </ul>	On ELISA, false positives can occur in recently vaccinated animals, and false negatives occur at various stages of shedding.