

FOOD REACTION TEST (FRT)

Measures immune-mediated reactions induced by food components in dogs and cats


The FRT is an ELISA based serum test designed to identify immune reactions to food individual components in the dog and in the cat. It measures a combination of immune reactions of IgE, IgG and IgA types. The FRT test contains 12 animal proteins and 12 plant components. The sum of all reactivities for each individual food component, are reported in a single result.

The prevalence of anti-CCD (cross-reactive carbohydrate determinants) IgE and IgG antibodies is found in more than 65% of tested patients. In the FRT test the IgE and IgG reactions anti-CCD are eliminated with the Antech proprietary blocker.

FRT is a tool that assists in the selection of food components that produce low immune-reactivities in the pets suffering of food sensitivity and gastrointestinal discomfort. This approach may significantly improve gastrointestinal and food adverse related symptoms.

Example of FRT results

The individual FRT-units are scored from lower to higher for each food group to facilitate the interpretation. Low FRT-units are highlighted to indicate the recommended combinations of animal and plant sources.

Animal proteins	FRT-units		Plant components	FRT-units
Rabbit	2	Low  High	Corn	5
Lamb	5		Wheat	5
Egg (chicken)	7		Carrot	6
Beef	8		Oat	7
Milk (cow)	9		Rice	8
Fish-mix	13		Soybean	10
Pork	16		Barley	12
Turkey	20		Sweet potato	13
Chicken	30		Pea	14
Trout (lake)	32		White potato	21
Tuna	33		Brewer's yeast	26
Salmon	45		Green bean	28

In this example, the recommended animal protein sources are rabbit and/or lamb. The recommended plant sources are corn and/or wheat. Any combinations of these components are expected to be of benefit for the patient. It is recommended to avoid food components giving high FRT-units.

Choice of diet

Once suitable food components are identified, it is recommended maintaining the pet on a homemade diet which is generally the best choice during the first 2 to 4 weeks. If the animal's condition improves, this confirms the diagnosis of a possible adverse reaction to a food. An appropriate diet will have a beneficial effect in the reduction of the intestinal mucosa inflammation. Once the animal's condition has improved, it is advisable to switch to a high-quality commercial diet, specially formulated to support the animal's long-term health.