

IDEXX provides guidelines on utilizing the feline and canine pancreas-specific lipase tests to assess pancreatic health

The canine pancreas-specific lipase (cPL) tests—the SNAP® cPL™ Test and Spec cPL® Test—and the feline pancreas-specific lipase (fPL) tests—the SNAP® fPL™ Test and Spec fPL® Test—have traditionally been used to help confirm or rule out suspicion of pancreatitis in the clinically sick patient. They are currently the most sensitive and specific tests available to diagnose pancreatitis in dogs and cats.¹ Because these assays detect only serum pancreas-specific lipase, they can also be used to evaluate the overall health of the pancreas on routine diagnostic testing.

How to use the cPL and fPL tests in sick animals

Pancreatitis is the most common exocrine pancreatic disease in both dogs and cats.

In the dog, clinical signs that should prompt testing for pancreatitis include vomiting, anorexia and/or abdominal pain. The SNAP cPL Test can be immediately performed pet-side or the Spec cPL Test can be requested from the reference laboratory. If the SNAP cPL Test results are abnormal, veterinarians are encouraged to perform the Spec cPL Test as a follow-up to establish a baseline cPL concentration and to monitor treatment. The new extended dynamic range for the Spec cPL Test allows veterinarians to monitor responses to therapy more effectively. It is important to keep in mind that a diagnosis of pancreatitis does not exclude the possibility of a concurrent disease, such as gastroenteritis, or a gastrointestinal foreign body, which might even be the primary cause of the dog's clinical signs.

Cats with pancreatitis generally have more nonspecific signs that may include lethargy, decreased appetite, dehydration, weight loss, vomiting, and diarrhea. Most cases of feline pancreatitis are idiopathic, and the disease is frequently associated with other concurrent conditions, including inflammatory bowel disease, cholangitis, cholangiohepatitis, hepatic lipidosis, and diabetes mellitus.² In cats presenting with clinical signs, the SNAP fPL Test can be immediately performed pet-side or the Spec fPL Test can be requested from the reference laboratory. If the SNAP fPL Test results are abnormal, veterinarians are encouraged to perform the Spec fPL Test as a follow-up to establish a baseline fPL concentration and to monitor treatment.

How to use the cPL and fPL tests in clinically normal animals

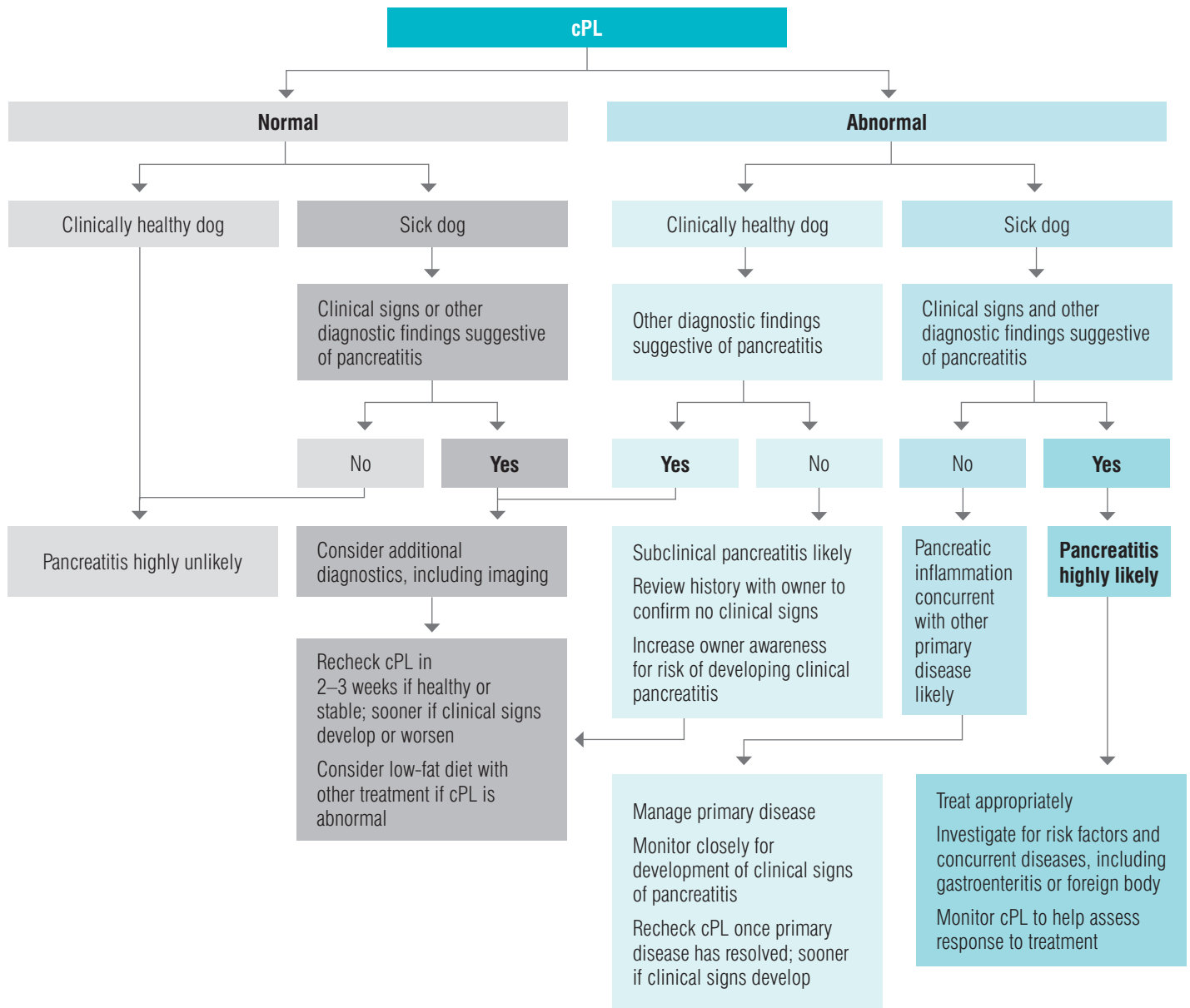
In a clinically healthy dog or cat, pancreatic health can also be evaluated with the Spec cPL Test or the Spec fPL Test. Similar to apparently healthy animals with increased liver enzymes, not all animals with pancreatic disease show clinical signs. Mild pancreatic lesions can occur in clinically healthy animals and pancreatic inflammation is common in a wide variety of clinical conditions.²⁻⁴ Pancreatic health may be affected by concurrent diseases, certain drugs, breed predisposition, trauma, ischemia, and dietary factors. Untreated chronic pancreatic inflammation can lead to more serious clinical conditions, including diabetes mellitus and exocrine pancreatic insufficiency.^{5,6} Obtaining a Spec cPL Test or a Spec fPL Test as part of routine wellness testing in canine and feline patients may help you identify subclinical disease in patients.

IDEXX Reference Laboratories provides updated Spec cPL Test and Spec fPL Test reporting

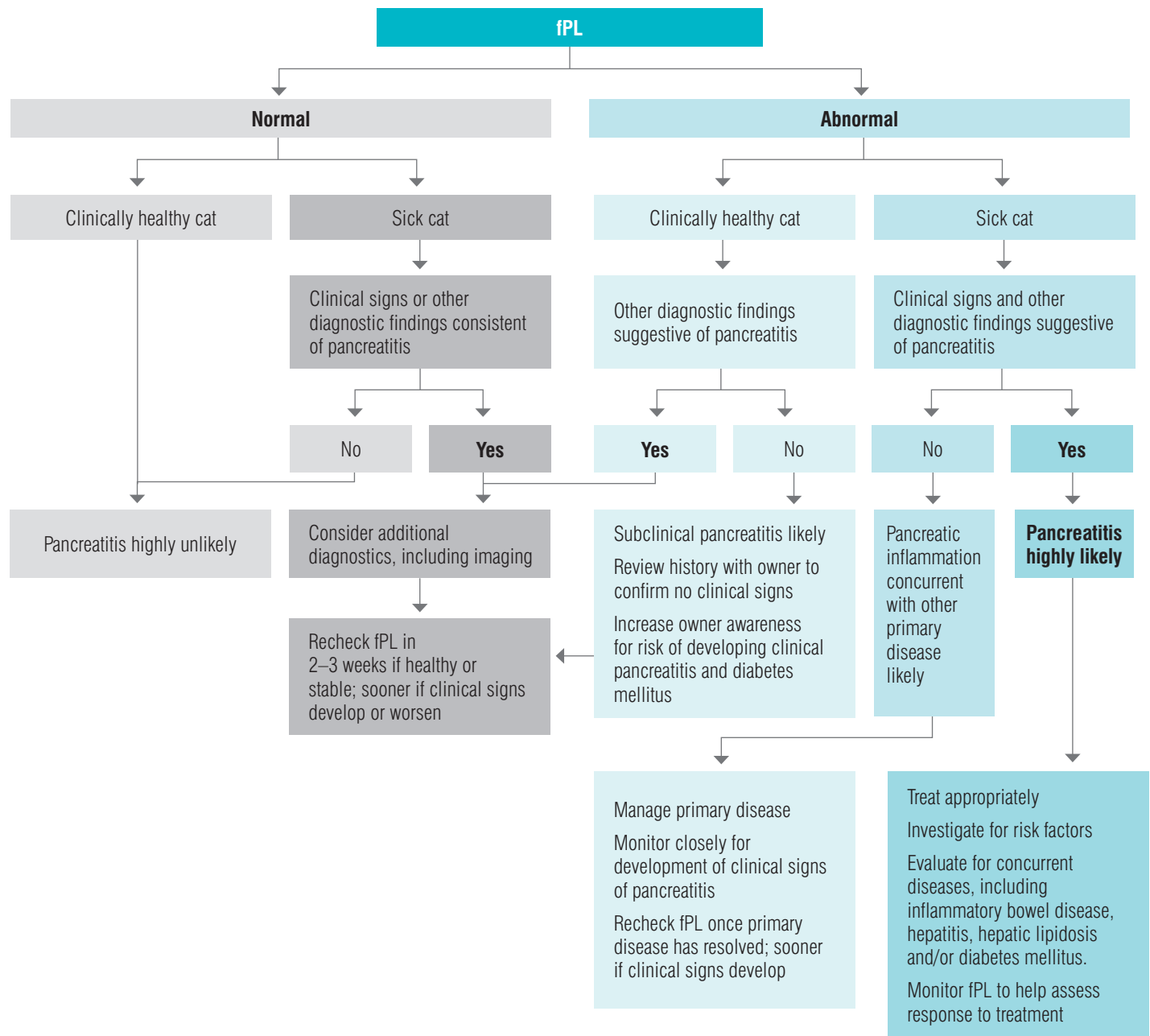
To simplify laboratory reports, a comment will no longer be provided when results are normal. When results are abnormal, comments included on your patient reports provide guidance to help interpret results in animals with and without clinical signs of pancreatitis.

Please see the algorithms on the following pages for evaluating cPL and fPL test results in all of your patients.

Algorithm for interpreting canine pancreas-specific lipase (cPL) in clinically healthy and sick dogs



Algorithm for interpreting feline pancreas-specific lipase (fPL) in clinically healthy and sick cats



Ordering information

The Spec cPL and Spec fPL tests are available for ordering as stand-alone tests, as add-on tests or in combination with a variety of profiles from IDEXX Reference Laboratories.

To order the SNAP cPL and SNAP fPL tests, visit idexx.com/order, call 1-888-79-IDEXX, or talk with your IDEXX Veterinary Diagnostic Consultant.

Canine

Test code	Test name and contents
2500	Senior Screen with Spec cPL® Test—Canine Chem 25 with IDEXX SDMA®, triglycerides, IDEXX CBC-Select™, Spec cPL® Test, total T ₄ , urinalysis Specimen requirements: 2 mL serum after an overnight fast, 1 mL LTT, 5 mL urine in a sterile container Turnaround time: 1–2 working days
2377	Total Health™ Plus Profile with Spec cPL® Test—Canine Chem 27 with IDEXX SDMA®, triglycerides, IDEXX CBC-Select™, Spec cPL® Test, total T ₄ Specimen requirements: 2 mL serum after an overnight fast, 1 mL LTT Turnaround time: 1–2 working days
1849	Spec cPL® Test—Canine
18491	Add-on Canine pancreas-specific lipase Specimen requirements: 1 mL serum (fasting specimen preferred) Turnaround time: 1–2 working days

Feline

Test code	Test name and contents
2743	Senior Screen with Spec fPL® Test—Feline Chem 25 with IDEXX SDMA®, IDEXX CBC-Select™, Spec fPL® Test, total T ₄ , urinalysis Specimen requirements: 2 mL serum (fasting specimen preferred), 1 mL LTT, 5 mL urine in a sterile container Turnaround time: 1–2 working days
2732	ADRChek® Profile Plus with Spec fPL® Test—Feline Chem 25 with IDEXX SDMA®, IDEXX CBC-Select™, Spec fPL® Test, total T ₄ Specimen requirements: 2 mL serum (fasting specimen preferred), 1 mL LTT Turnaround time: 1–2 working days

2493 Spec fPL® Test—Feline

24931 Add-on

Feline pancreas-specific lipase

Specimen requirements: 1 mL serum (fasting specimen preferred)

Turnaround time: 1–2 working days

Customer support services

IDEXX supports your practice with our customer support, technical support, and medical consulting services teams, including our diagnostic support veterinarians and board-certified veterinary specialists. Call **1-888-433-9987** if you have questions.

References

1. Washabau RJ, Day MJ. *Canine and Feline Gastroenterology*. St. Louis, MO: Saunders; 2013.
2. Steiner JM. Exocrine pancreas. In: Steiner JM, ed. *Small Animal Gastroenterology*. Hannover, Germany: Schlutersche; 2008:285–293.
3. De Cock HE, Forman MA, Farver TB, Marks SL. Prevalence and histopathologic characteristics of pancreatitis in cats. *Vet Pathol*. 2007;44(1):39–49.
4. Neilson-Carley SC, Robertson JE, Newman SJ, et al. Specificity of a canine pancreas-specific lipase assay for diagnosing pancreatitis in dogs without clinical or histologic evidence of the disease. *Am J Vet Res*. 2011;72(3):302–307.
5. Watson PJ. Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency as an end stage of pancreatitis in four dogs. *J Small Anim Pract*. 2003;44(7):306–312.
6. Watson PJ. Chronic pancreatitis in dogs. *Top Companion Anim Med*. 2012;27(3):133–139.

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The information contained herein is intended to provide general guidance only. As with any diagnosis or treatment, you should use clinical discretion with each patient based on a complete evaluation of the patient, including history, physical presentation, and complete laboratory data. With respect to any drug therapy or monitoring program, you should refer to product inserts for a complete description of dosages, indications, interactions and cautions.

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