

# UNITED VACCINES, INC.

## COUNTERELECTROPHORESIS (CEP) TESTING FOR ALEUTIAN DISEASE IN FERRETS

### INTRODUCTION

United Vaccines, Inc. has been .CEP testing mustelid serum samples for Aleutian disease (AD) antibodies for twenty years, performing hundreds of thousands of tests annually. Over the years, ferret, mink, raccoon and skunk samples have tested positive for ADV antibodies. The virus causes pathology followed by terminal disease in mink, and in some instances, ferrets. It has been reported that a ferret strain of AD virus is more likely to show clinical symptoms in ferrets than the mink strains. At least five strains of the mink virus have been identified using PCR. To our knowledge, ferret strains have not been identified using this same technology.

### COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF BLOOD SAMPLES

#### **Collection:**

Collect sufficient blood to fill a heparinized capillary tube. Plug one end. Identify each sample in the shipment. Whole blood or serum samples in Vacutainer tubes are also acceptable.

#### **Shipment:**

- 1 Package samples so that they are not crushed in shipment. We recommend UPS Next Day service from most areas, but other overnight services are acceptable.
- 2 Send the sample(s) to the following address:

United Vaccines, Inc. ATTN:  
Customer Service 2826  
Latham Drive Madison, WI  
53713

Be sure to include your clinic name, address, phone and fax number in the package: as well as the name of a contact person.

#### **Payment:**

Enclose with each shipment a check or credit card information (cardholder name, card number and expiration date) for a current Master Card or Visa only. The charge for the first sample in each shipment is \$15.00; each additional sample is \$10.00.

#### **Scheduling:**

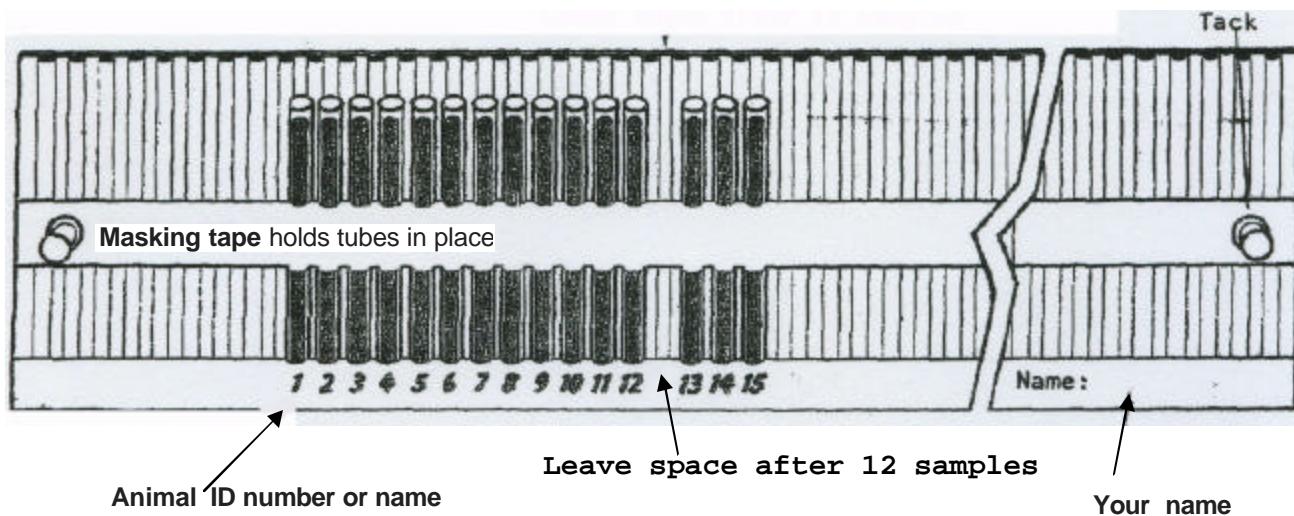
Prior to shipping your samples, call Customer Service (1-800-283-6465) to schedule the testing with the laboratory.

#### **Results:**

Normally, results are available within 48 hours after receipt of the sample(s). You can call for the results, wait for them in the mail, or if you request it in the shipment, we can fax you the results (fax number, please).

### Collecting Blood Samples:

1. Clip the toenail above the vein line (pink area of toenail). It is a good idea to use disinfectant between ferrets. Wipe the clippers on a clean cloth after disinfecting.
2. Fill each capillary tube  $\frac{1}{2}$  full by holding it in the drop of blood from toenail at a slight downward angle.
3. Plug one end of the tube with sealing clay to a dept of  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch.
4. Lay the tubes onto the grooves on top of the cardboard as illustrated.
5. Write the animal ID number or name of each sample on the white tape using a black or blue permanent ink pen.
6. Roll cardboard into tight roll and secure with a rubber band.
7. Refrigerate samples until the day of shipment. Do not keep samples more than 3 days prior to shipping.



### Shipping Samples:

1. Pack samples in a small box with newspaper, no ice is required.
2. Send samples via Next Day service (UPS, Federal Express, Express Mail, etc.).
3. Send to:

UNITED VACCINES INC  
CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPT  
2826 LATHAM DRIVE  
MADISON WI 53713

### Receiving Results:

Results are usually available in 48 hours after receipt of the samples. United will fax or call results to you or you may call 1-800-283-6465 three working days after shipment. United keeps a copy of all CEP test results on file for 1 year in the event the results are lost.

The following symbols could appear on your test results:

+ The sample is Positive (ferret has been exposed to AD).

NT A sample was received, but no conclusive test results were obtained from the sample. Submit another sample.

E The sample was broken during centrifuging. Submit another sample.

NS No sample was received.