

# Determining the best diets for allergic dogs and cats

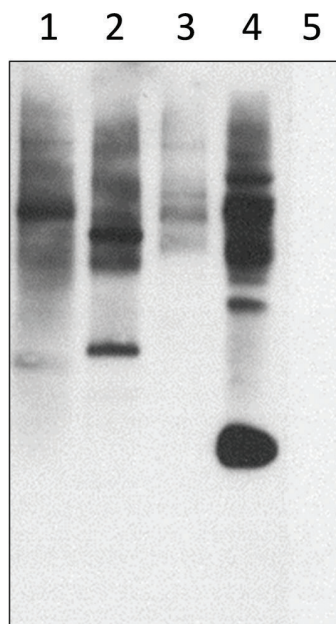
Avacta Animal Health has partnered with Galileo Diagnostics to develop two tests to help vets treating dogs and cats with food allergies to determine which diets to test in an elimination trial.

The company explains that the Cyno-Dial (for dogs) and Feli-Dial (for cats) tests detect specific immunoglobulins E (IgE) produced by a dog or cat against allergenic proteins contained in a range of manufacturers' diets. The tests require a blood sample from affected animals and are intended to be used after Avacta's Sensitest food allergy test.

Avacta further explains that the comparative analysis uses a Western blot technique which has been proven to be highly reliable and specific. Sample proteins are extracted, separated on a gel according to their molecular weight and then transferred to a membrane (blot). This is incubated in the presence of serum and when raised levels of antibodies are present against these proteins, they bind to the corresponding protein and a specific band appears on the membrane.

Hayley Booth, commercial manager for Avacta Animal Health, commented: 'Within just 15 days vets will receive precise recommendations on which diets will be tolerated by the pet and those results will clearly state which of the foods are "highly", "low" or "not sensitised", therefore determining the most appropriate veterinary prescribed diet to favour during the elimination trial.'

She added that the test could help reduce the length of food trials and provide vets with a better chance of reducing clinical signs of atopic dermatitis and an adverse food reaction.



Western blot example: Lane 1 shows sensitisation of a dog to its regular food; Lanes 2 to 5 are alternative foods tested, to choose the most appropriate elimination diet for the dog. Lane 5 does not show any sign of sensitisation, indicating the most suitable diet

Full details of which manufacturers' diets are assessed by the tests are available at <http://allergy.avactaanimalhealth.com/cyno-feli-dial/>

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