INTENDED USE
The VetScan Canine Heartworm Rapid Test is a visual and rapid test for the qualitative detection of *Dirofilaria immitis* (*D. immitis*) in canine or feline whole blood, serum or plasma. This test is for veterinary use only.

*Dirofilaria immitis* is a common filarial nematode of dogs, cats and wild canids. The disease is transmitted by mosquitoes and it has a world-wide distribution. The adult worms reside in the heart and the adjacent blood vessels. The parasite can interfere with the blood circulation, heart functions, and may damage other vital organs (1).

The VetScan Canine Heartworm Rapid Test is based on using heartworm-specific antibodies in an immuno-chromatographic sandwich assay. Antibody-coated colloidal gold particles bind to *D. immitis* antigen in the sample. The bound antigen flows through the strip and is then captured by antibodies on the test strip. The accumulation of the captured gold particle/antigen complex causes a color to become visible in the T (test) area. To serve as a procedural control, a colored line in the C (control) area will always appear regardless if the sample is positive or negative.

INSTRUCTION FOR USE
- Samples must be at room temperature 15° to 27°C (59° to 80°F), before running the assay – DO NOT HEAT.
- Previously frozen or older samples must be centrifuged before use.
- **Serum or Plasma**, either fresh, previously frozen or stored at 2° to 7°C (36° to 45°F), may be used in this test. Serum or plasma may be stored for up to 7 days at 2° to 7°C. For longer storage, sample should be frozen (-20°C or colder).
- **Whole Blood** may be used. Whole blood must be anticoagulated (e.g. EDTA, heparin) and may be used either fresh or after refrigeration at 2° to 7°C (36° to 45°F) for up to 5 days.
- Hemolyzed samples will not affect the results.
- EDTA or heparin in plasma will not affect the results.

STORAGE
- Devices and test reagents must be stored at room temperature 15° to 27°C (59° to 80°F).
- Devices and test reagents are stable until the expiration date when stored at 15° to 27°C (59° to 80°F).

KIT COMPONENTS
1. Test Devices
2. Chase Buffer Bottle
3. Transfer Pipettes
4. Instruction for Use

TEST PROCEDURE
1. Remove the Test Device from the protective pouch and place on a flat surface. Label the Test Device with the subject I.D. or control identification.
2. Gently mix the sample by inverting.
3. Using the Transfer Pipette provided, transfer 1 drop of sample (whole blood, serum, or plasma) in to the sample well. Wait for the sample to be absorbed (3-5 seconds).
4. Holding the Chase Buffer Bottle vertically, promptly add 2 drops of the Chase Buffer to the sample well.
5. Read the results within 10 minutes. High positives may appear as soon as 1 minute, and low positive results may take up to 10 minutes to appear. Do not read results after 15 minutes. Colored lines which appear after 15 minutes are not diagnostic and should be ignored.

PRECAUTIONS AND WARNINGS
- **Important**: Do not remove device from the pouch until ready for use.
- For veterinary use only.
- Do not use components after expiration date.
- Device must be used as soon as possible after removing from pouch.
- The device should be in a horizontal position on a flat surface while the test is performed.
- Use a separate transfer pipette for each test.

- All wastes should be properly decontaminated prior to disposal.
- The buffer reagent is not interchangeable from serial to serial.
INTERPRETATION OF TEST RESULTS
Positive results
The test is positive if two colored lines appear. One colored line will appear at the Test line (T) area and other at the Control line (C) area. Any intensity of the Test line (T) area should be considered positive. Colored lines may be lighter or darker than each other.

Negative Results
The test is negative if only one line appears at the Control line (C) area.

Invalid Results
The test is invalid if no colored line appears at the Control line (C) area even if a colored line appears in the Test line (T) area. If no colored line appears at the Control line (C) within 10 minutes, add an additional drop of the sample and wait for 5 minutes. If a colored line still does not appear in the C area, the test is invalid and should be repeated. Colored lines which appear after 15 minutes are not diagnostic and should be ignored.

HEARTWORM TEST PROCEDURE
1. Add 1 drop of blood, serum or plasma to the sample well and wait 3 to 5 seconds.
2. Add 2 drops of Chase Buffer to the sample well.
3. Read results within 10 minutes.

Positive Example

Negative Example

Invalid Example

REFERENCES