



Watch for Upcoming Agility
Articles and Events

Pesticides

Honeybees are the critical pollinators for much of the world's food crops. They are dying at an alarming rate. Nearly 1/3 of our food supply is in danger, which includes nuts, fruits and vegetables. Pollinators make possible an astounding 35% of global food production. Unfortunately the number honeybee colony in the US has declined and US beekeepers have lost over 42% of their colonies. Only a few of the major retailers are removing bee-killing pesticides from their store shelves. More than 20 states have passed measures to limit or ban neonicotinoids. Breeders, kennel owners and shelters that spray pesticides need to check to see if they are using bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides. Neonicotinoid pesticides are the leading contributor behind the bee colony collapse.

How Antibody Titer Tests May Affect? Your Decisions

Antigens are any substance that the immune system identifies as an invader and responds to by producing a chemical defense: antibodies. When everything is working, as it should, your dog's immune system will recognize disease antigens that were introduced to his system via a vaccine (weakened or killed) or by natural exposure to the antigen that causes the disease (viral or bacterial).

A "titer" is a measurement of how much antibody to a certain antigen is circulating in the blood at that moment. The result is usually expressed in a ratio. A positive titer test result is strongly correlated with a good antibody response to either a recent infection or vaccination. A dog who has received "core" vaccines and who displays a positive antibody titer test result should be considered protected from the diseases for which he was vaccinated (meaning, he doesn't need vaccines at that time).

Your dog must undergo a blood draw in order to have an antibody titer test. Labs such as Antech, IDEXX, and most veterinary college laboratories offer these tests. Antibody titer testing is typically run for parvovirus and distemper, since the dog's antibody response to these two antigens is highly predictive as to the dog's immunologic competence in dealing with any other antigen to which he has been exposed.

From the Whole Dog Journal