HESKA Canine/Feline Food Reaction Test

Overview

- The FRT is designed to determine and manage food related issues in allergic and/or food intolerant patients.
- It is intended as a valuable diagnostic tool for the clinician and as a means of educating pet owners in order to achieve greater compliance in the management of food allergy dermatitis or gastritis.
- The FRT is only for canine and feline patients.
- The FRT is not a food allergy test; instead, it measures serum reactivity to food components.
- Its purpose is to identify a practical, easy and suitable diet for the benefit of the patient and the pet owner.

A total of 24 food components are tested: 12 animal proteins and 12 plant components that are commonly included in commercial dog food. Please see the list below.

Animal Components		**Vegetal Components**	
Milk Protein	Cow Milk	Plant Protein	Wheat
Red Meat Protein	Beef		Barley
	Pork		Oat
	Lamb		Corn
	Rabbit		Rice
Poultry Protein	Turkey		Soybean
	Chicken		Sweet Potato
Egg Protein	Chicken Egg		White Potato
Fish Protein	Fish-Mix		Green Bean
	Salmon		Pea
	Tuna		Carrot
	Lake, Trout	Fungi	Brewer's Yeast

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. When and why should FRT be conducted?

The FRT is recommended as part of the diagnostic investigation of adverse food reaction (AFR). Patients with suspected AFR typically demonstrate dermatological and/or gastrointestinal signs. The FRT accurately identifies the food components for which the patient has the lowest reactivity, helping the clinician in the selection of animal and plant ingredients that can be used in an Elimination Diet Trial.
The purpose of the FRT is to help clinicians identify a practical, easy and suitable diet for the benefit of the patient and the pet owner.

2. **What exactly does FRT do?**

   The FRT:

   a) detects a combination of different Type-I and Type-III indicators (IgE, IgG subclasses 1 – 4)
      • Reason: Immunologic adverse food reactions are mediated by Type-I and Type-III reactions.
   b) filters out any cross-reactive carbohydrate determinant (CCD) based reactions
      • Reason: CCD-based reactions could otherwise result in false positive results.

3. **Is the HESKA FRT a test for food allergy?**

   No, the FRT is not an allergy test for food.
   It is an in vitro method of indicating a patient's immunoreactivity to specifically selected food proteins – in this case, 12 animal proteins and 12 plant components that are commonly included in commercial dog food.

4. **How are the results of the FRT interpreted?**

   The results are reported in "Food Reaction Units". There are no reference values or cut-off values, as they are subjective to each patient. The reactions are interpreted for each patient based on the overall reactivity against food components. The results are reported from low to high values to facilitate analysis and interpretation. Higher FRT values would suggest that the food component is potentially more likely to elicit an adverse immunological response. Conversely, lower FRT values would suggest that the food component is potentially less likely to elicit an adverse immunological response. However, lower FRT values can still manifest as gastro-intestinal or dermatological clinical signs.

5. **How can the FRT results be used to help guide patient treatment?**

   The recommended protocol for initiating an Elimination Diet Trial involves the feeding of an elimination diet for a minimum of 6 – 8 weeks. Veterinarians can consider food components with lower FRT values for such Elimination Diets due to the patient's lower reactivity to those food proteins.