



### **Position Statement: Testing for Tick Borne Illnesses**

One Tail at a Time does not test for tick borne illnesses on dogs without symptoms. Due to our intake volume, the test is cost prohibitive and do not indicate an active infection. If a dog is showing clinical signs of a tick borne illness, blood will be collected and a Flex 4 or 4dx will be run and we will pursue treatment as necessary.

In the event of an incidental finding where a patient does test positive for tick borne pathogen (Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichia, Lyme), but does not present clinical signs of disease (Fever, lethargy, pale mucous membranes, prolonged bleeding times/bleeding disorders) and is not currently on an appropriate treatment plan then the clinic will either:

a) Submit CBC/Chem (the most common hematological finding for ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis is thrombocytopenia-low platelets)

or

b) Submit Idexx Tick Real PCR Panel with Lab 4Dx plus test (Idexx 2823). 1 mL serum for ELISAs, 2 mL EDTA whole blood (LTT) for RealPCR tests; keep refrigerated. Collect specimens prior to antibiotic administration. Identification of bacterial DNA in whole blood indicates active infection

Proceed with treatment if clinical signs/lab results indicate active infection.

If results do not indicate active infection, inform foster/adopter that the patient likely had previous exposure to vector borne disease and has since cleared the bacteria. Antibody tests can remain positive for months to years after exposure and clearance of pathogen. Adopter should inform their vet of previous positive tests to prevent unnecessary administration of antibiotics due to positive screening test identifying previous exposure.