Evaluating the Utility of Patient-side Tests for Rapid Detection of *Leptospira*-specific Antibodies in California Sea Lions

Leptospira interrogans serovar Pomona is a prevalent cause of stranding in California sea lions (CSL). Serum microscopic agglutination testing (MAT) is a commonly performed diagnostic assay, and CSL with clinical disease reliably have elevated titers. However, it can take several days to receive test results from the laboratory. Given the zoonotic and high transmission potential of Leptospira spp., a point of care diagnostic test is valuable in a rehabilitation, managed care, or research setting.
The Coalition compared the results of Zoetis WITNESS® and IDEXX SNAP® Leptospira antibody tests with those of MAT in CSLs. Percent agreement between SNAP® and MAT results was high. A positive SNAP® test is qualitative (positive or negative), not quantitative (exact titer), and therefore only definitively indicates prior infection based on presence of antibodies. However, this point of care test may be useful in providing an additional rapid tool in diagnosing leptospirosis in CSL.