

# URINE CORTISOL CREATININE RATIO (Canine)

**SAMPLE REQUIRED:**  
Urine (2.0ml)

## Test Use:

- The urine cortisol creatinine ratio is a highly sensitive screening test for hyperadrenocorticism in dogs.
- However it lacks specificity and does not replace the low dose dexamethasone suppression test or the ACTH stimulation test as a routine screening test for hyperadrenocorticism.
- It is more useful for ruling out hyperadrenocorticism in dogs with a low clinical index of suspicion.
- It may be useful in dogs that are difficult to handle.

## Protocol:

- If glucocorticoids have been administered recently, refer to Notes below.
- As much as possible, maintain the dog in a stress free environment for 24 h prior to urine collection.
- Preferably collect the urine in the morning.

## Notes:

Screening for hyperadrenocorticism should not be performed in unwell or significantly stressed animals, which may yield false positive results in adrenal function tests. In potentially hyperadrenocorticoid dogs with significant intercurrent disease such as diabetic ketoacidosis or pancreatitis, adrenal function testing should be delayed until intercurrent disease is controlled.

Any form of corticosteroid therapy may interfere with adrenal function tests, partly by affecting the pituitary/adrenal axis via suppression of ACTH production. As a guide, the minimum periods for which corticosteroid therapy should be withheld before adrenal function testing are:

Injectable (short acting)	7 days (48 h if dexamethasone)
Oral	2 weeks
Topical	2 weeks
Injectable (depot)	2 months