

# DIGOXIN

## THERAPY MONITORING

**SAMPLE REQUIRED:**

Serum (0.5 mL) or  
Clotted blood (1.5 mL)

**BLOOD TUBE REQUIRED:**

Plain (red top) tube

**INDICATIONS:**

Monitoring of serum digoxin concentration in dogs and cats being treated for congestive heart failure, atrial fibrillation or flutter, and supraventricular tachycardia.

**COLLECTION PROTOCOL:**

- Serum digoxin concentration should be assessed 6-7 days after starting therapy or after a change of dose.
- Fasting of the patient is not crucial; however a 12 hour fast (overnight) is recommended to avoid sample lipaemia.
- Collect blood sample within one hour of the next scheduled dose or at least 8 hours after the last dose (trough concentration).
- Store sample at 4°C. If transport to the laboratory will be delayed (> 12 hours), the sample should be centrifuged and the serum separated.

**NOTES:**

- Gel/serum separator tubes are not recommended as the gel may absorb some of the drug, artificially lowering the serum concentration.