

# ENDOGENOUS ACTH (Canine)

## SAMPLE REQUIRED:

EDTA plasma (preferable) (2 mL) or fresh  
EDTA whole blood (4 mL)

## BLOOD TUBE REQUIRED:

EDTA plasma in a plain (non-additive) tube, or  
EDTA whole blood (purple top)

## INDICATIONS:

To differentiate between pituitary-dependent hyperadrenocorticism and adrenal-dependent hyperadrenocorticism in a dog confirmed to have hyperadrenocorticism (by LDDST or ACTH stimulation test).

## COLLECTION PROTOCOL:

- Collect blood into a plastic EDTA tube, ensuring that the tube is filled to the line. Gently mix by inversion.
- Centrifuge the sample immediately.
- Transfer the plasma into a plain plastic tube (no additive) and freeze immediately.
- Samples must be sent frozen and should still be frozen upon arrival at the laboratory. If dry ice transport is not available, the tube should be carefully sealed and then frozen into a large block of ice, ensuring that there is sufficient ice to keep the plasma sample frozen during transport.
- Note the collection date and time on the submission form.

## NOTES:

- ACTH is a very labile protein. Suboptimal specimen collection and handling may result in a falsely low measured ACTH concentration.
- If a centrifuge is not available, EDTA whole blood should be chilled immediately and sent to arrive at the lab as soon as possible (preferably within one hour).
- Markedly lipaemic and/or haemolysed samples may yield false results and samples should be redrawn prior to submission.