

VON WILLEBRAND FACTOR TEST

SAMPLE REQUIRED:

Plasma (2.0 mL)

BLOOD TUBE REQUIRED:

Sodium Citrate (blue top) tube for initial collection and then plasma transferred to plain (non-additive) tube and frozen

INDICATION:

- This test is used in the diagnosis of von Willebrand factor deficiency (von Willebrand's disease) in dogs.

COLLECTION PROTOCOL:

Animal Requirements:

- It is important to note Von Willebrand's factor may increase in response to stress, acute haemorrhage, inflammation or infection. Hence avoid collecting blood from bitches that are in season, pregnant or lactating, dogs that are unwell, have recently undergone surgery, or have had a recent episode of haemorrhage.
- The patient should be fasted for about 12 hours prior to sample collection. The patient must be resting at the time of collection and care should be taken to avoid any stress or excitement. Sedation of the patient may be necessary in some circumstances.

Sample Requirements:

- It is essential that a "clean" venipuncture is made for sample collection. If any difficulty occurs, a new needle and syringe should be used for recollection.
- Collect blood into a **sodium citrate (blue top)** tube. Ensure that the tube is filled to the correct line (a minimum of 2 mL of plasma is required for the assay). Fill 2 tubes if possible when using 2 mL citrate tubes. Ensure the sample does not contain any clots.
- Centrifuge the sample immediately. Remove the plasma using a plastic pipette. The plasma should be placed into a plain (non-additive) plastic tube. Note: Do not use a plain (red top) vacutainer tube as these contain a clot activator.
- If sample receipt at the laboratory can be guaranteed within 24 hours of collection it should be refrigerated at 4°C and kept cool during transportation to the laboratory, ideally in an esky with ice packs.
- If a delay of more than 24 hours between collection and receipt at the laboratory is expected, freeze the plasma immediately after collection. The plasma must remain frozen and transported on dry ice. Contact the laboratory to organise a dry ice collection.

NOTE:

If a centrifuge is not available and a whole blood sample is being transported to the laboratory, the sample should be wrapped in cotton wool or newspaper and then placed in an esky with ice packs and transferred to the laboratory as soon as possible. Direct contact with the ice packs is to be avoided, as this may cause haemolysis. **Do not freeze whole blood.**

Submission of whole blood is discouraged as this may lead to sample haemolysis and von Willebrand factor deterioration/loss, affecting the validity of the result.