Aldosterone

SAMPLE REQUIRED:
EDTA plasma (0.5 mL minimum) or serum if centrifuged and separated shortly after clotting

BLOOD TUBE REQUIRED:
EDTA plasma in a plain (non-additive) tube, or serum in a plain tube

INDICATIONS:

For the diagnosis of aldosterone secreting tumours in cats, and less commonly in dogs. These animals are often (but not always) persistently hypokalaemic and are often hypertensive.

COLLECTION PROTOCOL:

EDTA plasma

- 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 labelled plain plastic tube (no additive) and freeze immediately.
- Samples must be sent frozen and should still be frozen upon arrival at the laboratory. Contact the laboratory to arrange a dry ice collection. 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.
- 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).
- Note the collection date and time on the submission form.

Serum

- Serum is an acceptable alternative sample if it has been centrifuged and separated within 30 minutes of clotting.
- The sample should be frozen and should still be frozen upon arrival at the laboratory. Contact the laboratory to arrange a dry ice collection. 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.