

## Blood Sampling Protocols

The following provides information regarding blood tests which may be carried out for diagnosis or monitoring of certain conditions. Please note that for some conditions, the timing of the blood sample may be important. Guidance is included below.

### **Bile Acid Stimulation Test**

This test is performed in dogs or cats where we are suspicious that they may be suffering from liver disease. The test is carried out to assess if the liver is functioning normally and requires two blood samples to be taken.

#### Protocol:

The animal needs to be **strictly starved for 12 hours prior to coming in for the blood test**. The first blood sample is taken, the animal is fed and the second blood sample is taken two hours later. Generally we admit these animals for a morning or afternoon.

### **ACTH Stimulation Test**

This test is carried out both for diagnosis and for monitoring. It is used for patients that have been diagnosed with, or we are suspicious may have, a condition called Cushing's Disease. This is a condition where the body produces too much steroid hormone and tablets are used to block this excess production.

#### Protocol:

- **Diagnosis:** The first blood sample is taken and a drug is injected, then a second blood sample is collected two hours later. Generally we admit these animals for a morning or afternoon.
- **Monitoring** (of treatment): The patient needs to come in **4-8 hours post Vetoryl tablet**. The first blood sample is collected, a drug injected and a second blood sample collected two hours later. Generally these patients are admitted for a morning or afternoon (depending on when they have their tablet).

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### **Phenobarb Monitoring**

This test is used to monitor patients that are on a drug called *Epiphen* which is used to control epilepsy. Patients are given tablets twice daily, 12 hours apart.

#### Protocol:

These patients have a single blood sample taken. The sample needs to be collected **midway between dosing (i.e. 6 hours after the morning dose)** and so can be booked in as a consultation with a vet.

### **Thyroid Monitoring**

#### **DOGS**

This test is used to monitor patients that are hypothyroid. These patients have an underactive thyroid gland which slows their metabolism. These dogs are on medication to supplement the thyroid hormone that they are lacking.

#### Protocol:

These patients need a single blood sample to be taken. This sample needs to be collected **6 hours after their tablet** so can be booked in as a consultation with a vet.

#### **CATS**

This test is used to monitor patients which are hyperthyroid. These patients have an overactive thyroid gland which speeds up their metabolism. These cats are on once or twice daily medication to block the excessive production of thyroid hormone.

#### Protocol:

These patients need a single blood sample to be taken. This sample can be taken **at any time of day** regardless of when the tablet was given. These cats can therefore be booked in as a consultation with a vet.