

Bile Acid Stimulation

SAMPLE REQUIRED:

Whole blood in a serum tube, minimum of 1ml whole blood per time point

BLOOD TUBE REQUIRED:

Serum tube, red top or gold top

Indications:

- Evaluation for hepatosystemic shunting or impairment of hepatic function.
- Bile acid evaluation is contraindicated in animals with icterus (not associated with haemolytic disease) or other evidence of biliary stasis.

Collection Protocols:

1. The animal must be fasted for 12 hours.
2. Collect a fasting blood sample. Clearly label the tube with the patient's details and '0 hr' or "Pre" sample.
3. Feed the dog or cat a small meal to stimulate gall bladder contraction. It is recommended that pets <5kg of body weight eat at least two teaspoons of food, those that weigh more eat at least two tablespoons. It is important to watch closely to ensure that all of the food is eaten. Avoid overfeeding as this may result in sample lipaemia which can interfere with the bile acid assay.
4. Collect the post-prandial blood sample 2 hours after feeding. Clearly label the tube as '2 hr' or 'Post' sample.

Notes:

- Haemolysed samples will provide inaccurate results and non-haemolysed samples are therefore required.
- Inadequate food intake can result in failure of the gall bladder to contract and falsely low post prandial results.
- Additional non-invasive diagnostic options includes abdominal imaging (ultrasound or advanced imaging).