

# Low Dose Dexamethasone Suppression Test

**SAMPLE REQUIRED:** Whole blood in a serum tube, minimum of 1ml per time point

**BLOOD TUBE REQUIRED:** Serum tube, red top or gold top

## Indications:

- Diagnosis of hyperadrenocorticism.

## Collection Protocols:

1. Collect a basal blood (serum) sample
2. Inject 0.01 mg/kg i/v of Dexamethasone
3. Collect two further blood (serum) samples 4 hours and 8 hours later
4. Label sample times clearly on the tubes
5. Tick Dexamethasone suppression test (VDX) on the submission form

## Notes:

- Diagnostic testing for hyperadrenocorticism should not be performed in dogs that have severe non-adrenal illness as false positive test results may occur. , In dogs with significant concurrent disease such as diabetic ketoacidosis or pancreatitis, adrenal function testing should be delayed until concurrent disease is either resolved or reasonably stable.
- Any form of corticosteroid therapy may interfere with adrenal function tests, by (a) cross-reacting in the cortisol assay (except for dexamethasone), or (b) affecting the pituitary/adrenal axis via suppression of ACTH production. An ACTH stimulation test is usually preferred in such cases.