

# Urine Cortisol to Creatinine Ratio

**SAMPLE REQUIRED:** Urine,  
minimum of 2ml

**BLOOD TUBE REQUIRED:** Sterile  
container

## Indications:

- The urine cortisol creatinine ratio is a screening test for hyperadrenocorticism in dogs. however it lacks specificity and does not replace the low dose dexamethasone suppression test or the ACTH stimulation test as a routine screening test for hyperadrenocorticism.
- It may be useful for ruling out hyperadrenocorticism in dogs with a low clinical index of suspicion.
- It may be useful in dogs that are difficult to handle.

## Collection Protocols:

1. If glucocorticoids have been administered recently, refer to Notes below.
2. As much as possible, maintain the dog in a stress free environment for 24 h prior to urine collection.
3. Collect the urine in the morning.

## Notes:

- This test should NOT be used to monitor animals being treated for hyperadrenocorticism.
- Screening for hyperadrenocorticism should not be performed in unwell or significantly stressed animals, which may yield false positive results in adrenal function tests.
- In potentially hyperadrenocorticoid dogs with significant concurrent disease such as diabetic ketoacidosis or pancreatitis, adrenal function testing should be delayed until concurrent disease is controlled.
- Any form of corticosteroid therapy may interfere with adrenal function tests, partly by affecting the pituitary/adrenal axis via suppression of ACTH production.
- Dogs treated with Trilostane may have false positive results with this assay.

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