

# ACTH

## Endogenous

### - Canine and Equine

#### SAMPLE REQUIRED:

EDTA plasma 1mL, frozen

#### BLOOD TUBE REQUIRED:

EDTA plasma in a plain (non-additive) tube.

#### Indications:

**Canine:** To differentiate between pituitary-dependent hyperadrenocorticism and adrenal-dependent hyperadrenocorticism in a dog confirmed to have hyperadrenocorticism (by LDDST or ACTH stimulation test).

**Equine:** To aid in the diagnosis of pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID; equine Cushing's disease).

#### Protocol:

1. Collect a minimum of 2mL blood into a plastic EDTA tube, ensuring that the tube is filled to the line. Gently mix by inversion.
2. Centrifuge the sample immediately.
3. Transfer the plasma into a plain plastic tube (no additive) and freeze immediately.
4. Samples must be sent frozen and should still be frozen upon arrival at the laboratory. Specifically request a frozen sample collection by courier.
5. Note the collection date and time on the submission form.
6. Tick ACTH – frozen plasma box on submission form.

#### Notes:

- ACTH is a very labile protein. Suboptimal specimen collection and handling may result in a falsely low measured ACTH concentration.
- Markedly lipaemic and/or haemolysed samples may yield false results and samples should be redrawn prior to submission. A 12-18 hour fast is recommended in dogs to reduce lipaemia.
- With all frozen samples, we recommend collection of a duplicate sample to be stored in your freezer until testing has been completed.
- Please advise the courier that you require a frozen collection when booking a pickup.