

# Coagulation Factors

## Including - Factor VIII & Von Willebrands Factor

**SAMPLE REQUIRED:** Citrate plasma,  
frozen

**BLOOD TUBE REQUIRED:** Citrate tube

### Indications:

- Unexplained haemorrhagic disorders,
- Screening of dogs with a breed associated genetic risk.

### Animal Requirements:

1. It is important to note that clotting factors may be affected by stress, acute haemorrhage, inflammation or infection. Hence avoid collecting blood from bitches that are in season, pregnant or lactating, dogs that are unwell, have recently undergone surgery, or have had a recent episode of haemorrhage.
2. The patient should be fasted for about 12 hours prior to sample collection.
3. The patient must be resting at the time of collection and care should be taken to avoid any stress or excitement. Sedation of the patient may be necessary in some circumstances.

### Collection Protocols:

1. It is essential that a non traumatic venepuncture is made for sample collection. If any difficulty occurs, a new needle and syringe should be used for recollection from a different site.
2. The animal should preferably be fasted for 12 hours prior to collection.
3. Collect blood into a sodium citrate (blue top) tube. Ensure that the tube is filled to the correct line (a minimum of 2 mL of plasma is required for the assay). Fill 2 tubes if possible when using 2 mL citrate tubes. Ensure the sample does not contain any clots.
4. Centrifuge the sample immediately. Remove the plasma using a plastic pipette. The plasma should be placed into a plain (non-additive) plastic tube. Note: Do not use a plain (red top) vacutainer tube as these contain a clot activator.
5. Plasma should preferably be frozen and submitted to the laboratory on dry ice.
6. If freezing is not possible, and sample receipt at the laboratory can be guaranteed within 24 hours of collection it should be refrigerated at 4°C and kept cool during transportation to the laboratory, ideally in an esky with ice packs.

### Notes:

An alternative test for von Willebrands is a genetic test which is available for a range of breeds with a known genetic risk. An EDTA blood sample is required for the genetic test.

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