

# General Sampling Advice

- All samples submitted should be clearly labelled with the patient and owners name, along with timings where appropriate (eg. ACTH stim tests, bile acids, etc.).
- EDTA tubes should always be filled as appropriate for the size tube. Use of 4ml EDTA blood tubes is not recommended in small animal work. 0.5ml EDTA tubes are available to order for use where blood volume is low.
- Citrate blood tubes should always be in-date and be filled as appropriate - 1.8ml vacutainer (as supplied by Vetnostics) will fill correctly if blood is introduced through the stopper.
- All fluids for cytology (including pleural, peritoneal and pericardial) should be submitted in EDTA blood tubes. Submission of a plain sample (in sterile urine container) is advised as well if culture additionally required. Joint fluids for culture should ideally (if volume allows) be submitted in blood culture bottles, otherwise a swab should be submitted.
- Avian and reptile blood samples should be submitted in lithium heparin blood tubes (no gel tubes) - such tubes are available to order through Vetnostics Stores Order Form. A fresh blood film should ALWAYS be submitted as well.
- Please note that apart from exotics (avian and reptile), we request serum (and EDTA if FBC required) as opposed to lithium heparin for biochemistry and endocrinology. Lithium heparin blood submission will limit the range of available testing.

For further general information regarding sampling and tube requirements, please refer to our current pricelist.