

Test Protocols and Sampling Terms of Business Opening times, Reporting & Support



PTDS
Unit 2a
Manor Farm Business Park
Higham Gobion, Herts. SG5 3HR

Tel - General: 01582 881368
Tel - Pathology: 01582 882634
Fax: 08717 146847
Email: ptdslab@btconnect.com
Website: www.ptdslab.co.uk

Protocols

Bile acids (dynamic) – fast for 8-12 hours then take serum. Feed a small quantity and take a second serum sample 2 hours later.

ACTH stimulation test – take serum then inject synthetic ACTH (Synacthen) 250µg if >5kg or 125µg if <5kg) i/v (or i/m). In dogs resample 1 hour later (2 hours later if i/m). In cats sample at 1 & 3 hours later.

Canine Adrenal Panel – ACTH stimulation as above: measures cortisol, 17 OHP, androstenedione, oestrogen, progesterone, aldosterone.

Canine dexamethasone suppression test: Low dose (LDDST) - take serum then inject 0.01 mg/kg dexamethasone i/v, resampling at 3 and 8 hours. **High dose (HDDST)** - inject 0.1mg/kg i/v instead.

Feline dexamethasone suppression test - Take serum, inject 0.1 mg/kg dexamethasone i/v and resample at 4 and 8 hours.

SHAP (Dogs) - uses the same protocol as the ACTH stimulation but request SHAP (17 OH-progesterone) instead.

Urine Corticoid:Cr ratio – collect 1-3 morning urine sample(s) at home, before or 48 hours after, the veterinary consultation.

TRH stimulation test (Dogs) – take serum and then administer TRH (100µg (small), 200µg (medium), 300µg (large)) i/v slowly over 1 min, resampling 4-6 hours later.

TSH stimulation test (Dogs) – take serum and then administer 75 (small breed) -150µg (large breed) rhTSH i/v, resampling 6 hours later.

Oestradiol (dynamic) test - ovarian remnant in animals without oestrous signs. Take serum, inject 0.32µg Buserelin (Receptal) diluted 1:10 i/v and resample 3 hours later.

Progesterone (dynamic) test - for ovarian remnant in oestrous cats. Take serum and then inject 500 IU hCG (Chorulon) i/m (or i/v) and resample 1 week later.

Testosterone (dynamic – Rig) test - Take serum and then inject hCG (Chorulon) i/m (44 IU/kg) and resample in 1 hour.

Profile / Screen Abbreviations

All include calculated ratios Na:K and A:G.

Alb - Albumin	Fib – Fibrinogen
ALP - Alkaline phosphatase	GGT - γ-glutamyl transferase
ALT – Alanine aminotransferase	GLDH - Glutamate dehydrogenase
Amy – Amylase	Glob - Globulins
AST - Aspartate aminotransferase	Glu - Glucose
BA - Bile acids	K - Potassium
Bili - Total bilirubin	Lip – Lipase
Ca – Total calcium	Mg - Magnesium
Chol – Cholesterol	Na - Sodium
CK - Creatine kinase	P - Inorganic phosphate
Cl - Chloride	Trig - Triglycerides
Cr - Creatinine	TP - Total Protein

Therapeutic monitoring

Sample timing varies. If sub-therapeutic suspicion, sampling should occur just prior to the next dose. If toxicity is of concern, sample at peak levels; commonly 4-6 hours after dosing. For routine monitoring, the following are guidelines:

Bromide - sample midway between doses.
Cyclosporin - sample just before the next dose.
Digoxin – sample 6 hours after dosing.
Heparin – sample 3 hours after dosing.
Phenobarbitone – sample midway between doses.
Thyroxine – sample 4-6 hours after dosing.
Trilostane – ACTH stimulation at 4– 6 hrs after dose.

Sample Handling

We can advise on any sampling issues. The following are some brief guidelines to minimise routine sample artefact:

Biochemistry - min. 8 hr fast and separated serum or plasma (min. 500ul) samples are ideal. Refrigerate until posted.
Coagulation - 'clean' venepuncture, filling the citrate tube to the line. Separate, min. 1 ml, refrigerate until posted.
Haematology - EDTA tube filled to the line. Make at least one smear. Refrigerate EDTA tube until posted.
Smears - allow to naturally air dry. Do not store in the fridge or allow ANY exposure to formalin fumes or fixed formalin samples.

Terms of Business

Prices exclude VAT and are subject to change.
PTDS charges VAT at the prevailing rate.
PTDS invoices customers at the end of each month.
Settlement is due within 7 days of the invoice date.
Blood submitted for biochemistry is stored for 28 days and for haematology for 7 days.
PTDS provides supplies, submission forms and pre-paid submission envelope labels on request.
It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure all packages sent to PTDS comply with the current postal regulations.

Opening times, Reporting & Support

PTDS is open from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 12.00 pm Saturday.

Out of hours telephone support for emergencies is available on 07423 437674.

Urgent submissions are prioritised but incur an extra charge of £2.

Haematology, biochemistry, screens, profiles, cytology and many serology tests are reported on the day of receipt. All Complete Blood Counts (CBC) include blood film examination and morphological interpretation.

Bacteriology and histopathology reporting times are typically 2-5 days.

Reports can be delivered by fax, e-mail or to your phone; these can be attached to 'client numbers' for direct data transfer if required. Please let us know what you would prefer.

All tests except 'Screens' include full pathologist reporting, haematological review and telephone back up.

Clinical Pathologist reports on any 'Screen' can be provided at an additional cost of £5. All profiles and screens can be provided without haematology - please deduct £5.