

Collection Instructions for Hemostasis Testing

It is critical to obtain blood by atraumatic venipuncture to minimize platelet and coagulation factor activation.

- Use a light blue top, sodium citrate tube.
- Fill to the appropriate 9:1 ratio (blood:citrate). This is typically indicated by a black mark on most blue-topped tubes.
- Under or over filling the tube can falsely prolong or shorten clotting times.
- Mix the blood immediately after collection by at least 10 gentle inversions.
- Centrifuge specimen at 3000 g for 10 minutes and transfer plasma to a leak-proof plastic tube.
- For species other than dogs, cats and horses, please submit a control sample from a healthy patient of the same species.
- Label tube and slides with the animal's name, the owner's name, and collection date. If a control sample is submitted, please label as "control" with the patient's name.
- Ship frozen plasma on dry ice, if the sample cannot be delivered within 8 hours to the laboratory.

NOTE: Collection from a different vein using a fresh needle is recommended if blood collection is difficult. Direct vacutainer tube collection can be challenging due to collapsing veins, especially with smaller patients. Blood can be collected using a needle and **non-heparinized** syringe then quickly transferred to a blue-topped tube.