

COLLECTING URINE SAMPLES

At some stage your vet may ask you to collect a urine sample from your pet to bring into the hospital.

We may be checking for diseases such as diabetes or kidney disease, or looking for a specific illness such as a urinary tract infection (cystitis), or stones or crystals in the bladder.

Urine samples are most useful for testing if they are fresh, and free from contamination, such as dirt, lint or fur. We are happy to provide you with a clean specimen jar if you can call in prior to collecting the sample, or you can use a thoroughly cleaned and dried container such as a glass jar or plastic tub.

If you cannot bring a sample into us straight away, please place the container in a bag in the refrigerator, and bring it in within 12 hours of collection. Refrigerating the sample will slow down any changes which happen in it after collection.



NORTH HOBART VETERINARY HOSPITAL

273 Elizabeth Street, North Hobart TAS 7000

Ph: 03 6234 7044 **Fax:** 03 6234 8303 **Email:** admin@nhvh.com.au **Web:** www.nhvh.com.au

HOW TO COLLECT A URINE SAMPLE FROM A CAT

The following is designed to give you some tips to make collecting a sample simpler. If you have any questions, please talk to our nurses for advice.

Collecting urine samples from cats is simplest using a litter tray. Even if your cat tends to toilet outside, if they are confined to a room with a litter tray, they will almost always use it when there is no alternative (bear in mind that cats can hold on for a long time – so they will probably need to be confined overnight!)

Make sure that the litter tray is thoroughly cleaned, rinsed and then dried before putting it out to collect the sample. Cats prefer to scratch at something in the tray prior to toileting. This obviously needs to be a non absorbent material which is not going to contaminate the urine sample.

Scatter either cut up strips of plastic bag, short lengths of chopped up plastic drinking straw, or commercial plastic pellets (Catrine - available at North Hobart Veterinary Hospital) designed for the purpose.



Urine can be collected by tilting the tray and pouring the urine into a jar, or using a syringe or pipette (which are included with the Catrine pellets) to draw it up and place into the jar.

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HOW TO COLLECT A URINE SAMPLE FROM A DOG

The following is designed to give you some tips to make collecting a sample simpler. If you have any questions, please talk to our nurses for advice.

Both male and female dogs will tend to urinate more predictably if they are in a public space with good smells – such as the footpath, with telegraph poles or fence corners. Walking them on the lead will help you to be close when they urinate so that you can catch a sample.

Male dogs will generally cock their leg to urinate, and it is relatively simple to catch a small amount. You can catch the urine straight into the sample jar, or into something like an ice-cream container, thoroughly washed and dried, that has a wider opening, and then transfer the urine into the sample jar.

Because female dogs squat low to the ground, it can be more difficult to get in underneath for a sample. Cutting down a plastic soft drink bottle, (rinsed and dried) can make it easier to get underneath the dog without disturbing it and stopping it from urinating. Leave the bottle neck in place to use as a handle.



Most of the tests we are performing on the urine only need a small volume – if you can collect at least a teaspoon this should be enough. Even if you only manage to get a tiny amount, don't despair – we may still be able to use it, so please bring it with you! Make sure you write the pet's name, and the time and date that you collected the urine on the sample jar before bringing it in.

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