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How to Catch a Urine Sample

In the Dog

- Make sure you have a clean container to catch the urine in – a take away food container is ideal for the job as generally no more than a tablespoon of urine is needed.
- Have your dog on the lead when you want to catch the sample to make sure you are no more than two steps away
- You need to find an area where there are lots of juicy doggy smells to stimulate the urinating reflex.
- Let them sniff around and give it time.
- When they are squatting down and have started to urinate, then swiftly without startling, put the container between the legs and “catch” the sample.
- Well done... now transfer that to a smaller container and bring it into us for testing.
- Store it in the fridge (labeled) before you can get it here.

In the cat

- Confine your cat to the laundry or bathroom for a day or so with food, water and a litter tray.
- Make sure the litter tray has been scrubbed down with hot water, and it is as clean as it could be.
- Use your normal litter (a tablespoon of it) plus some plastic clothes pegs, or small plastic bottle lids to allow the cat something to scrabble against when they toilet.
- Check the litter tray regularly to make sure if they have “done the deed”
- If so they can be released, pour the urine into a container, store it in the fridge until you can get it here.

Why do we need urine?

Well, urine is often called “liquid gold” by us vets, simply because it is so useful. With just this liquid part of the body, we can test for diabetes, protein loss, infections in the urinary system, inflammation elsewhere (through protein loss or muscle damage) and measuring concentration, we can check on the pet’s hydration, and kidney function.

Pretty useful! And, without it, we can’t interpret some of the blood results we see in our pets aswell, which is why we always (almost) get a urine sample if we are doing blood tests.

Which is why when we are screening for Chronic Kidney Disease in our pets, we need to get a blood AND urine test at the same time, we cannot rely on one or the other to give us an answer.