

2022 BILE ACIDS TEST PROCESS

The following procedure is adapted from a 2005 [IDEXX Round-table discussion](#) on diagnosing liver disease and the aforementioned discussion:

1. 12 hour fast preferred but not necessary.

Can be scheduled as a ½ day stay or inpatient diagnostics

2. Collect a blood sample, from the jugular vein if possible, to avoid hemolysis. DO NOT use a narrow gauge needle, as this increases the risk of hemolysis, which interferes with the assay.
3. Gently place the sample in a plain serum tube. DO NOT use a separator tube.
4. Allow approximately 30 minutes for the specimen to clot, then centrifuge the sample and separate the serum into a plain tube. If the serum sample is lipemic, ultracentrifugation or other treatments may be necessary to remove the fat from the blood as this can also interfere with the assay. This will be done at the laboratory.
5. Feed a small amount of a canned-food maintenance diet (2 tablespoons to a small dog or cat, 2-4 tablespoons to a large dog). This allows standardization of the test and contains enough fat to stimulate gall-bladder contraction.
6. Collect a second blood sample 2 hrs after administering the food. Follow Steps 2-4 for proper handling of plasma.
7. Bile acids are stable at room temperature for several days, so no special shipping or storage is required if samples are being submitted immediately.