

Thyroid, ACTH stim and Low Dose Dex Test Guidelines

Thyroid testing protocol for pets on thyroid medication

HYPERTHYROID Cats: Sample can be taken anytime of the day. Serial testing should be approximately the same time each day. No fasting required.

HYPOTHYROID Dogs: Sample must be 4-6 hours post pill. On the day of the test, the thyroid medication should be given on an empty stomach 1 hour before a meal.

No special requirements for pets that are not currently on medication.

ACTH stim Test Protocol

ACTH stim test is to investigate if a pet may have Hyperadrenocorticism (Cushings) or Hypoadrenocorticism (Addisons) The test is also used to monitor pet on Trilostane for treatment of Cushings

For initial testing: No fasting or special requirements

For monitoring pets on medication: The test should be performed 2-6 hours after trilostane is administered to the dog with a **FULL MEAL**. The exact hour post-pill (2, 3, 4, 5, or 6) that the test is started is not critical. But for consistency in interpretation of results and subsequent post-pill cortisol concentrations, the SAME post-pill time should be repeated each time an ACTH-stimulation test is performed. As an example, if the first post-pill ACTH stimulation test is started 4 hours after the pill is given with food, then all others ideally should be started at 4 hours post-pill.

- Use 2 sample test (3 sample test is for testing with a transdermal gel which is not recommended or performed at HPVC)
- Collect baseline blood sample of 0.5ml serum in serum separator or plain red top tube and label pre sample
- Inject Cortrosyn 0.5 ug/ml IV
- Collect 2 second sample 1 hour later and label 1 hour post

Low Dose Dexamethasone testing

Used to test for Hyperadrenocorticism (Cushings)

The pet must stay with us for the whole day. We need to take blood samples at 4 and 8 hour intervals after a steroid is administered. The intake or discharge time may need to be adjusted to accommodate this.

No fasting or special requirements

- Collect baseline blood sample of 0.5ml serum in serum separator or plain red top tube and label pre sample
- Inject 0.01mg/kg dexamethasone IV or IM
 - Collect blood sample 4 hours and 8 hours post injection and label blood tube accordingly