Sample Handling Methods

SYRINGE SIZE GUIDE

- **SMALL BREED** (adult weight up to 10kg): 25g
- **MEDIUM BREED** (adult weight 10-30kg): 22g
- **LARGE BREED** (adult weight 30-60kg): 20g
- **GIANT BREED** (adult weight over 60kg): 18g

*Remove needle before dispensing to avoid hemolysis.
*Dispense slowly into sample tube.

TEST TUBE COLOR CHART

- **BLUE TOP** - CITRATE anticoagulant for coagulation only
- **RED TOP (IF NECESSARY)** - NO anticoagulant for chemistry only
- **GREEN TOP** - LITHIUM HEPARIN anticoagulant for chemistry only
- **PURPLE TOP** - EDTA anticoagulant for hematology only

Always fill samples in correct order to avoid contamination. Green top tubes should never be placed on a test tube rocker.

TEST TUBE HANDLING

Hematology samples must be inverted 10-15 times before use.

Using chemistry samples contaminated with EDTA severely affects results, most notably CA and K+. Samples, stored at room temperature, should be used within one hour for lithium heparin, 3-4 hours for EDTA samples.

COMMON PROBLEMS WITH TEST RESULTS DUE TO SAMPLE QUALITY

- **HEMOLYSIS** - broken RBC’s distorts analyte values - causes pink plasma
- **LIPEMIA** - lipemia interferes with all chemical reactions and milky plasma distorts light absorption
- **ICTERUS** - excessive bilirubin pigments - causes yellow plasma

remind your clients to NOT feed their pets for 4-6 hours prior to their appointment to avoid lipemia.