



# National Veterinary Diagnostic Services, LLC

26856 Clark Rd  
Waller, TX 77484

Phone                      Fax  
(281) 661-4292    (877) 349-8217  
e-mail: info@national-vet.com

## Sample Collection

In an effort to send us the best possible sample, please follow the collection protocols below.

1. Avoid using alcohol at the collection site. Just a minute amount can cause hemolysis in the blood. If you must, make sure you wipe as much of the alcohol away before sticking with the needle.
2. Immediately after collecting the sample in a red top tube (RTT) or serum separator tube (SST), place the tube on its side in your refrigerator for 10 – 15 minutes. This will allow for the highest amount of surface area to allow for quicker clotting.
3. After the blood has clotted, centrifuge the sample for 5 – 10 minutes. If the sample was collected in a red top tube (RTT) draw off the serum and place it in a clean RTT. If you collected in a serum separator tube (SST), you may leave the serum in the tube after it has been centrifuged.
4. Immediately refrigerate or freeze the sample until you are ready to ship. If you were not able to separate the serum or if the serum is severely hemolyzed, **DO NOT FREEZE THE SAMPLE**. Freezing a sample that has not been separated or one that is hemolyzed will destroy the sample.
5. Package the sample in a separate compartment from the test request, so the sample is not in the same compartment as the paperwork. Place the sample and paperwork in an insulated container and ship using an overnight service with an ice pack to keep the sample cold.

The package does NOT need to be sent first overnight or early delivery. Standard overnight is fine. If you use the US Postal Service, please complete the signature waiver. If using FedEx or UPS, please do NOT require a signature. We can not always get to the door in time to accept your package. Failure to do so may result in your package not being delivered in a timely manner and could adversely affect the quality of the results, requiring you to collect and ship a fresh sample.

We suggest shipping Monday – Thursday. If you must ship on a Friday, please contact the lab prior to shipping so we know to expect the sample on Saturday. You **MUST** inform the shipping company that you want a Saturday delivery. Failure to do so may result in a delivery delay and a damaged sample. Be aware that FedEx and UPS has an additional fee for Saturday deliveries.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.