



Tips for Accurate Serum Sampling

1 Prevent Hemolysis (rupturing of the red blood cells) of the sample which may interfere with results

Serum will be a pink to red color if sample is hemolyzed

- Avoid vein collapse when drawing blood samples by minimizing suction on the syringe and do not draw back too quickly. Do not draw too slowly either, as this can contribute to hemolysis.
- Use the largest appropriate needle size and smallest syringe needed for the size of dog.
- Avoid using needles smaller than 23 gauge.
- Use minimal alcohol on fur and skin, alcohol can affect the sample integrity.
- Always remove the needle from the syringe before dispensing blood sample into the appropriate tube. Pushing blood out of a needle can tear/rupture red blood cells.

2 Prevent Lipemia (fat in the blood) in the blood sample

Serum will be a cloudy white/milky color if sample is lipemic

- Avoid drawing sample after a large meal, preferably draw sample on an empty stomach.

3 Avoid using Icteric (presence of excess bilirubin in the blood stream) samples

Serum will be yellow if sample is icteric

- **See your veterinarian if you believe the sample is icteric.

