



## Urine Cortisol: Creatinine Ratio Test Protocol Instructions

### Why does my dog need this test?

The urine cortisol: creatinine ratio (UCCR) is a simple urine test used by veterinarians to screen for hyperadrenocorticism (HAC), sometimes referred to as Cushing's syndrome. This test measures the amount of cortisol in the urine, allowing your veterinarian to assess your dog's adrenal function. Because this test is very sensitive, a negative test result makes HAC extremely unlikely. However, if a positive test result is obtained, more extensive testing for HAC will be required.

### How do I prepare my dog for this test?

Let your veterinarian know about any medications your dog takes and ask whether these medications should be given the day of the test. It is important to inform your veterinarian of all medications given by mouth or applied to the skin and ears.

### What does this test involve?

- You will be asked to collect a urine sample from your dog. Your veterinarian will give you a urine collection device. Simply hold this under the urine stream and collect at least 10 ml (2 teaspoons) of urine.

- It is best to collect urine first thing in the morning, as this provides the most reliable sample for laboratory testing.
- If your dog normally urinates off leash, it may be necessary to put your dog on a leash in order to catch the urine sample.
- If you have difficulty collecting the urine sample, contact your veterinarian for assistance.

### What should I do with the sample?

Secure the lid on the urine collection device and place the apparatus in a plastic bag. Put this in the refrigerator as soon as possible. Take the sample to your veterinary clinic in a cooler with a frozen ice pack.