

## URINE COLLECTION

Urine collection can be done a few different ways: free catch (collecting urine as the animal urinates), cystocentesis (obtaining urine directly from the bladder with a needle and syringe), and catheterization.

There are a few key things to remember about collecting urine from your pet for your veterinarian to analyze:

1. The sooner you get it to your vet, the better. The longer you wait, the less accurate the results become. The sample must be less than 12 hours old to be analyzed.
2. If you can't bring it in immediately, refrigerate the sample.
3. You don't need large amounts of urine. Usually an eighth of a cup will suffice.

### Urine Collection - DOGS

If you need to collect urine at home to take into the veterinary clinic, you can do it without making a mess or upsetting your dog. Attach a light, thoroughly cleaned container, like an empty margarine tub or an old Styrofoam egg container, to the end of a yardstick. You can also bend a metal coat hanger to form a holder for a urine collection cup. Keep your dog on a leash when you take him out, so he can't get too far away from you. When he starts to urinate, wait a second or two for impurities to be flushed out, then slip the container into the urine stream. Pour the urine into a clean jar that seals tightly.

### Urine Collection – CATS

If you need to collect urine from your cat at home to take into the veterinary clinic, there are a few ways to do it. Usually it is best to confine the cat to a room with only the litter box and food and water in the room.

1. Plastic wrap method – wrap your cat's normal litter box in plastic wrap (loosely), then when he/she urinates, you can drain the urine into a container.
2. Garbage bag method – this is similar to the plastic wrap method; just put your cat's litter box in a regular sized kitchen garbage bag. Flatten out all the air and return the litter box to its original location. Your cat should still use the litter box if it feels its regular litter under his/her feet.
3. Plastic beads method – most veterinary offices can provide you with plastic beads (Nosorb is one brand) with which you can replace your cat's regular litter. Then when your cat urinates in this litter, you can drain the urine off into a container.

Not all cats cooperate with these methods! If all else fails, your veterinarian may have to collect urine by cystocentesis. If this is the case, please put your cat in a room with water and without a litter box or anything to urinate on (rug / mat) for 6-8 hours before your visit. This will help them to have a full bladder that your vet can easily locate and sample from.