NEW APPROACH TO EQUINE ACTH ASSAY SERVICE — NO FREEZER PACK REQUIRED!

SIMPLE SAMPLING AND POSTING . . . WITH ACCURATE RESULTS.

WE HAVE CARRIED OUT EXTENSIVE RESEARCH INTO THE STABILITY OF EQUINE ACTH AND ITS SUBSEQUENT MEASUREMENT USING OUR VERY ACCURATE AND PRECISE IRMA ASSAY, FULLY VALIDATED FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF EQUINE ACTH

EQUINE ACTH SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Preparation of the blood sample - EDTA plasma is required.

1) Take a 3 mL blood sample and put into the enclosed pink topped Aprotinin tube*. It is advisable to cool the tube before use on an ice pack or similar. Alternatively blood can be taken into a cooled plastic EDTA tube kept on an icepack.

2) Mix gently by inversion at least 10 times, this is very important to make sure the blood is very well mixed with the EDTA and Aprotinin, failure to do this may result in sample agglutination as the sample continues to clot after separation. Centrifuge as quickly as possible.

3) Transfer the plasma into a cooled PLAIN plastic tube . A tube is enclosed for your use if you wish.

4) Keep the plasma sample cold in the fridge until sent to Dechra Specialist Laboratories. If the sample is not being dispatched the same day then freeze until dispatch.

5) For an overnight courier please call the lab by 10.30am, we recommend you to use this service. Alternatively you can use Royal Mail Guaranteed NEXT DAY delivery with the post office. If sampling on a Friday please freeze the sample and arrange the courier for the Monday.

* The use of the Aprotinin tube is advisable as this helps preserve the equine ACTH if there is any delay in the sample transit.

ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT US ON
01223 493400
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EQUINE ACTH QUESTIONS/ANSWERS SHEET

1) Do we have to use the pink topped Aprotinin tube?  
Answer: No it is not essential but is desirable as this helps preserve the equine ACTH if there is any delay in the sample transit. Plain EDTA plasma is also suitable.

2) Do we have to use a courier to send in the sample?  
Answer: No you can use Royal Mail Special Delivery but the sample ideally must get to us the next day and not be in the post more than 24 hours. A courier is a very safe way of ensuring this happens.

3) Why don’t we have to use a freezer pack any more for the equine ACTH samples?  
Answer: We have done extensive stability studies sending samples through the post and have found that in conjunction with our special IRMA equine ACTH assay we are able to get accurate results without the use of freezer packs.

4) How do we package up the samples for sending to Dechra Specialist Laboratories?  
Answer: Simply package up the samples in exactly the same way as for any other analysis you send to the laboratory, ensuring there is no likely leakage or breakage of the sample tubes as per postal regulations.

5) What if the EDTA/Aprotinin tubes we have don’t fit into our centrifuge?  
Answer: If you make sure you mix the samples really well in the EDTA/Aprotinin tubes first you can transfer the whole blood into other tubes that do fit into the centrifuge.

6) Why are your results so much higher than other laboratories offering equine ACTH testing and results reported in the literature?  
Answer: Our results are higher because we are sure that we are measuring much more of the ACTH in the sample than other methods that measure only a proportion. We have performed detailed validation studies using equine ACTH samples to verify this. Other laboratories may be using chemiluminescent assays run on automated analysers which we have found do not measure 100% of the equine ACTH and may only measure as little as 25%.

7) Why should I use Dechra Specialist Laboratories for our equine ACTH?  
Answer: Dechra Specialist Laboratories deliver reliable results measuring equine ACTH. Every sample is analysed twice for the ACTH content so you can be even more sure of an accurate result. Automated methods only measure ACTH on a single occasion per sample.  
The service is easy to use with no freezer pack needed  
Value for money – only £20  
Fully validated sensitive and accurate IRMA assay

ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT US ON 01223 493400
NEW EQUINE ACTH

(Separated EDTA Plasma Sample only NO NEED TO FREEZE –see protocol)

EQUINE ACTH, IS RUN ONCE A WEEK. SET UP DAY IS WEDNESDAY AND RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE THURSDAY.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CLINICIAN’S NAME: ____________________________________________

PRACTICE NAME: _____________________________________________

PRACTICE ADDRESS: __________________________________________

POSTCODE: __________________________________________________

PRACTICE TELEPHONE: ________________________________________

PRACTICE FAX: ______________________________________________

OWNER’S NAME: ______________________________________________

ANIMAL’S NAME: ______________________________________________

SPECIES: _____________________________________________________

BREED: ______________________________________________________

SEX: _________________________________________________________

AGE: _________________________________________________________

SAMPLE DATE: _______________________________________________

CLINICAL DETAILS: __________________________________________

DATE SAMPLE SENT: __________________________________________

TEST REQUESTED

PLEASE TICK

EQUINE ACTH (1 ML EDTA PLASMA – PLASTIC TUBE NOT GLASS) □

LAMINITIS PROFILE EQUINE - ACTH
(1 ML EDTA PLASMA – PLASTIC TUBE NOT GLASS), INSULIN (SERUM),
CORTISOL (SERUM) & GLUCOSE* □

LAMINITIS PROFILE PLUS - TESTS AS ABOVE PLUS CHEMISTRIES □

* SERUM SEPARATED WITHIN 1 HOUR OR FLUORIDE OXALATE.