







Which tube ...

- for which test?

Since receiving samples in the wrong type of tube or container can often mean it is unsuitable for testing, please see the guideline below to help decide which tube to use. Tubes are listed in recommended order of collection. Note: when collecting a blood culture, always take this before other blood tubes.

1.8mL citrate tubes are only suitable for PT testing

Tube top	Type	Size	Tests
	Sodium citrate	2.7 mL 1.8 mL [#]	Coagulation Screen, prothrombin time, APTT, von Willebrand's <i>Note: Citrate tubes must be full draw volume</i>
	Gel	3.5 mL	Biochemistry testing, hormones/endocrinology, bile acid, insulin (on ice), ionised calcium (on ice), electrophoresis, nutritional chemistry, drug testing
	Plain (clot activator)	1.3 mL 4 mL 10mL	Biochemistry testing, hormones, bile acid, insulin (on ice), ionised calcium (on ice), electrophoresis, drug testing, nutritional chemistry, cross match, blood grouping, serology, immunology, inorganic iodine, vaccination titres
	Lithium heparin	1.3 mL 4 mL 10mL	Bile acids, relaxin, inorganic iodine, reptile/avian CBC only
	EDTA	1.3 mL 3 mL 9 mL	Haematology testing*, cross-match, Coombs test, ESR, GPx, whole blood selenium, blood lead, fluid cytology, FIV/Haemotropic mycoplasma PCR
	Fluoride oxalate	2 mL	Glucose, lactate

Please do:

- Mix ALL tubes thoroughly by gentle inversion 8-10 times - including plain tubes
- Label all specimens with animal and owner's name
- Refrigerate all samples after collection and submit to the laboratory as soon as possible – except cytology smears and blood films*
- Include an ice pack with samples when couriating to laboratory, especially in summer
- Ensure all samples sent to the laboratory are packaged according to IATA shipping regulations

Please don't:

- Use a large tube for a small amount of blood
- Put blood films and cytology smears in the fridge, leave at room temperature.

