



How to collect a urine sample

- ☐ Ask the veterinary clinic whether a home-collected free-catch sample is appropriate for the specific question.
- ☐ Use a clean, dry, leak-proof container; avoid food residue, cleaning products and nonabsorbent litter unless the clinic approves it.
- ☐ For a dog, catch part of a normal urine stream using a clean shallow container when safe.
- ☐ For cats or other species, ask the veterinary team for an appropriate species-specific collection method.
- ☐ Label the sample with the animal's name, collection date and collection time.
- ☐ Deliver promptly; ask whether short-term refrigeration is acceptable if immediate delivery is not possible.
- ☐ Tell the clinic if the sample touched litter, skin, the ground or another potentially contaminated surface.
- ☐ Never squeeze the bladder, pass a catheter or delay care for an animal straining to urinate.

Free-catch urine can be useful but may be contaminated. A veterinarian may recommend a sterile sample collected directly from the bladder, especially when bacterial culture or certain diagnostic questions are involved.