

What's Hot Is Not.....Tested

It is the time of year when the hotter temperatures can adversely affect the quality of blood after it has been collected. Exposure to the heat of the sun can cause the blood to hemolyze. Hemolysis is the rupture of red blood cells and release of hemoglobin into the plasma causing the serum to appear red to cherry red in color. Heavily hemolyzed blood may interfere with the ELISA. Extra efforts must be made to prevent the blood from being exposed to high temperatures and direct sunlight. The quality of blood received at the lab is of ultimate importance in producing a quality test results. Provided are a few hints to help insure the blood is collected and delivered to the lab in "testable" quality.

- 1) **Never leave the blood tubes or racks in the cab of the truck for prolonged periods of time.** Cab temperatures can easily exceed 100°C within minutes on a sunny day.
- 2) **Shield the blood samples in an empty insulated cooler.** Coolers usually designed to transport samples to the lab in refrigerated conditions are fine for use. The lid of the cooler must be securely closed to prevent heat transfer into the cooler. Please do not use ice packs unless they are at room temperature. Sometimes it is useful to use room temperature ice packs to cushion racks of blood tubes to prevent the racks from shifting around while driving. Cold will interfere with the clotting process and serum separation, so never place recently collected blood in with cold/frozen ice packs.
- 3) **Allow the clot to retract and serum to rise in the blood tubes for approximately 3 hours at room temperature prior to refrigeration.** Optimum submission is to pull the serum off the clot and submit only clear, yellow serum for testing. Frozen ice packs can be placed in the cooler after 3 hours at room temperature to help preserve the samples. If the blood samples are to be delivered to the lab the same day, no frozen ice packs are required, provided the truck temperature is not above 80° F. If samples are to be delivered the next day, please refrigerate overnight. To re-emphasize...always allow the serum to rise in the blood tubes at room temperature at least 3 hours before refrigeration.



Please protect your blood/serum samples from the hot temperatures we are now experiencing. We will always notify each of our customers when there is a quality of blood/serum issue.

Tours and Visitors

- May 1: Hire Dynamics
- May 7: UGA College of Veterinary Medicine
- May 18: Indian Delegation
- May 24: Idexx



Delegates from India toured the lab on May 18.



Representatives from Idexx visited the lab on May 24.



Devil is in the Diorama Detail



The reconstruction of the industrial park is progressing very well! We are in the process of completing the new buildings in the park and adding lights all over the diorama. Stop by and check out the new arc welder at the processing plant!