

Tips & Tricks #12



How much Blood is needed?

Collecting sufficient volumes of blood is rarely a problem in production animals but can be in small animal patients. **If you can't get enough blood tell us what your priority testing is (i.e. what are you trying to rule out or in?).**

So how much blood is needed?

SERUM:

- **Biochemistry profiles and Serological tests** need a minimum of 0.2 mL serum which is about 0.4 - 0.6 mL sample depending on the animal's haematocrit. However, more than 1 mL is ideal, allowing retesting if results are unexpected, or if lipaemia is present.
- **Endocrine assays** require at least 0.6 mL of blood.
- **Trace elements** are big users of serum with 0.5 – 1.0 mL needed per analyte.

WHOLE BLOOD:

- While only 0.3 mL of blood is needed to run a CBC, the correct size tube should be chosen to prevent excess EDTA affecting RBC parameters and smear quality.
- Tubes for coagulation profiles need to be filled to the line to prevent inaccurate results

