

Is she spayed or not?

Ovarian remnant syndrome (ORS) is suspected when a spayed female appears to be coming into heat.

In cats and dogs, the most useful test is a vaginal smear* taken at the time of apparent oestrus. Cornified cells are seen if there is a source of oestrogen whereas parabasal cells will be seen in a spayed animal. Other sources of oestrogen including exogenous creams or medications, and atypical hyperadrenocorticism need to be excluded.

Baseline serum progesterone

An elevated baseline serum progesterone is consistent with luteal activity, however, a low concentration doesn't exclude ORS and a hormone stimulation test would need to be carried out. Call the lab for more details.

*Ensure that the sample is from the vagina and not vulva or vestibule.

