

Saint Louis Zoo Endocrine Lab Sample Collection & Shipping

Fecal Samples:

1. Collect sample as fresh as possible. (Note: if animals are group housed, all feces in area will need to be removed daily in order to ensure collection of a fresh specimen the next morning.)
2. Scoop up about a spoonful (inexpensive plastic coffee spoons work well).
3. Place in small zip-lock bag with opaque marking area. (Fecal “float” vials are NOT acceptable.) Do not overfill bag. Make sure it is well sealed.
4. Using permanent black marker (Sharpie) on opaque marking area, clearly label bag with animal ID and date of collection.
5. Freeze immediately. Store at -70EC. If an ultra-low freezer is not available a regular (-20EC) freezer will suffice for short periods (up to two months.)

Serum or urine samples:

1. Try to send at least 1 mL of serum (more if possible for multiple hormones or lipemic specimens) or 2 mL of urine samples.
2. Using permanent black marker (Sharpie) on opaque marking area, clearly label tube with animal ID and date of collection.
3. Freeze in *plastic* tubes (cryo tubes with marking area are excellent.) Store at -70EC. If an ultra-low freezer is not available a regular (-20EC) freezer will suffice for short periods (up to one month.)

All samples:

Contact us before shipping to be sure someone will be on hand to receive the samples. For any further questions on sample handling or suggested sampling schedules, contact Joan Bauman at **314 781-0900 x 762**, or by E-mail at jbauman@stlzoo.org

1. Include the following information in a cover letter with shipment:
 - a. Species,
 - b. Which hormone assays are requested,
 - c. What information is desired, (ie pregnancy check, cycle tracking, contraceptive monitoring, ACTH stimulation),
 - d. Full contact information for the sender,
 - e. Purchase Order Number (if and *only* if your institution requires a PO).
 - f. Quoted price if this is a grant project.
2. Ship on dry ice in a **solid styrofoam box** (mark box “Frozen Specimens”) by overnight courier to:

Joan E. Bauman, Ph.D.
Research Department, Veterinary Hospital
Saint Louis Zoo, 1 Government Drive
St. Louis MO 63110