



Collecting a Urine Sample

How to get a clean sample your vet can actually use

PETSLIKEMINE
URINARY HEALTH

PET NAME

VET PRACTICE

SAMPLE DATE / TIME

A good urine sample helps your vet tell stress cystitis from a true infection from stones, and can save a lot of guesswork. Fresh is best, and a surprisingly small amount is plenty. Here is how to catch one cleanly at home.

CATS

- Empty and rinse the litter tray (no soap residue), and dry it
- Give your cat privacy; once it has been, draw the urine up with the syringe or pipette your vet gives you
- Replace the litter with non-absorbent granules from your vet, or a clean empty tray
- Keep your cat indoors with the special tray until it goes

DOGS

- Use a clean, dry, shallow container (your vet can give you one)
- A first-morning sample is usually the most useful
- Catch mid-stream: let them start, then slide the container in

TIMING AND STORAGE

- Fresher is better: collect as close to the appointment as you can
- Get it to the vet within a few hours; note the exact time you collected it
- If you cannot go straight away, pop it in the fridge (not the freezer)

IF YOUR VET COLLECTS IT INSTEAD

Do not worry if your vet would rather take the sample directly from the bladder with a fine needle (cystocentesis). It sounds worse than it is, it is quick, and it is the cleanest possible sample, which matters most when they need to test for infection.

COLLECTED AT (TIME) AND HOW IT LOOKED

Written and reviewed by Dr Alastair Greenway MRCVS and Claire Greenway BVM&S MRCVS. This sheet explains and records. It does not diagnose or prescribe. Always follow your own vet's instructions.

How to use. Clean container, fresh sample, fridge if there is a wait, and to the vet quickly with the collection time noted. A wellbeing aid, not a substitute for veterinary advice.

FRESH, CLEAN, AND TO THE VET QUICKLY