



Lee's Hill Pet Hospital

The Shops at Lee's Hill
10693 Spotsylvania Ave.
Fredericksburg, VA 22408
(540) 710-7111

Collecting a Stool Sample

1. **Container:** We have stool collection kits we can provide you free of charge or you can use your own container. In the past, people have used sealable plastic bags and disposable plastic ware. Some people have reusable Tupperware that they prefer to wash and reuse for stool samples. Please be sure to inform us if you would like your container returned. Regardless of what container you use, be sure it is clean and free of dust and debris to ensure the most accurate test results.
2. **Label:** Please be sure to label your container with your pet's first and last name, the date, and time of sample collection.
3. **Timing:** The fresher the sample, the better the results. Stool samples should be collected within 6 hours of your appointment.
4. **Collecting the Sample:**
 - a. **DOGS:** After your pet defecates, use the pipette provided by us or a similar tool (i.e. popsicle stick) to collect about a nickel-sized amount of stool and place the sample in your container. Seal the container and label it.
 - b. **CATS:** After your cat defecates and before he or she buries the stool, use the pipette provided by us or a similar tool (i.e. popsicle stick) to collect about a nickel-sized amount of stool and place the sample in your container. Seal the container and label it. If you have multiple cats and you are not able to sit around and wait for your kitty to defecate, isolate your pet in a room with a clean litter box. When you return home, scoop the box and try to get a sample with as little litter as possible.
 - c. Alternatively, with either dogs or cats, if you are unable to obtain a sample at home, you may leave your pet with us for a few hours and our technicians will try to obtain a sample.

Collecting a Urine Sample

1. **Container:** Unfortunately we do not have urine collection containers. Most people use disposable plastic ware or disposable cups with lids. In many cases, it is easier to use a certain tool or container (i.e. ladles, turkey basters, shallow bowls, etc) to collect the sample and then transfer the sample to a different container (i.e. Tupperware or cup) to bring to our lab. Some people have reusable Tupperware that they prefer to wash and reuse for urine samples. Please be sure to inform us if you would like your container returned. Regardless of what container you use, be sure it is clean and free of dust and debris to ensure the most accurate test results.
2. **Label:** Please be sure to label your container with your pet's first and last name, the date, and time of sample collection.
3. **Timing:** The fresher the sample, the better the results. Urine samples should be collected **within 1 hour** of analysis. Over time, urine samples begin to change and results can be inaccurate. For example, crystals may begin to form in the urine and give us false results. We understand pets do not urinate on command and getting a sample within the hour before your appointment can be tricky, so here are some options:
 - a. You may bring a urine sample before your appointment. For example, if your appointment is at 4:00pm, but you successfully collect a sample at 10:30am, you may bring in the sample immediately and we will analyze it and have results before your appointment at 4:00pm. If you collect a sample at 10:30 am and bring it with you at 4:00pm we will not be able to get accurate results from that sample and will have to try to obtain another sample.
 - b. For urine rechecks, an appointment is not required and you may drop-off the sample at our hospital any time during our regular hours.
 - c. If we are studying your pet's urine to analyze kidney function or to see how concentrated your pet's urine is, the sample must be collected first thing in the morning, before your pet has had anything to drink. Our lab accepts samples as soon as we open at 7:30 am.
 - d. We can attempt to get a sample during your appointment—we'll ask you to walk your pet outside the hospital and a technician will follow you to try to collect a sample. In this case, please do not allow your pet to urinate outside before the appointment. With cats, your technician can palpate the abdomen to see if the bladder is full and manually express the urine out of the bladder.
 - e. You can leave your pet here with us for the day so we can try to collect a sample for you.

4. Collecting a Urine Sample

- a. DOGS: Some dogs squat and some dogs lift their legs when they urinate. Especially for dogs who squat, you'll want to get something that is shallow to slide under your pet to collect the sample. This is why some people use ladles. We personally use shallow bowls. Whatever you use, make sure it you wipe it clean first. Once the sample is collected, place a lid on it and or transfer the sample to a container that can be sealed.
- b. CATS: There are a couple of methods:

1. Some people can successfully collect a sample from their cat in the same way it is collected from dogs (see above). They wait until their cat urinates in the litter box and they place a shallow bowl or ladle under the cat to catch the urine. However, not all people have the time to wait for their cat to pee or their cat will not tolerate a person holding something underneath them while they urinate.
 2. We send home a litter box and special non-absorbing, sterile litter. Place the special litter in the litter box and isolate the cat in a room with only this special litter box. After the cat urinates, you can collect the sample with a syringe (which we can provide) and bring the sample to our clinic.
- c. Alternatively, with either dogs or cats, if you are unable to obtain a sample at home, you may leave your pet with us for a few hours and our technicians will try to obtain a sample.

For all samples dropped off for analysis, the test must be paid for at the time of drop-off and please allow 10 minutes for the receptionist to take a brief history.