



[www.petmateservices.com](http://www.petmateservices.com)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why progesterone test?**

Progesterone hormone is realised in the body to prepare the uterus for fertilised eggs, testing for progesterone levels can be used as an indication of whether ovulation has occurred. This information means the timing for an optimal mating can be clearly defined requiring less matings overall resulting in less demands on a stud dog and also the likelihood of bigger litter sizes.

### **What is the test?**

To run the endocrinology test a small sample of blood (1.5 ml) is required, normally taken by your vet or a veterinary nurse. This sample can then be processed and a quantitative figure reported. This figure of ng/ml can then be compared to a reference table which will confirm if ovulation has occurred, if the ova is mature for fertilisation and the optimal time for mating.

### **How long does results take?**

We offer a Rapid Result Assay test, this means we can give you the results with 1-2 hours of receiving them. These rapid results provide you with more flexibility to plan a mating at your convenience.

### **What do I need to do now?**

It's best to pay and order your kit online via [www.petmateservices.com](http://www.petmateservices.com) . Once your females starts her season you can arrange with your vet when to start taking bloods (typically from Day 6). The kit contains tubes for the blood plus all necessary paperwork. This can be mailed to PetMate Services or delivered in person, depending on your location. Once the test has been processed you'll be contacted and updated with the results and given any future instructions.

### **Is what you do any different to my veterinary practice or laboratory?**

We use veterinary grade photometric laboratory equipment to conduct an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Following trained laboratory protocol whilst using reagents enables us to evaluate the levels of progesterone in a solution and accurately provide a quantitative result to ascertain ovulation.

Most vet practices don't have the equipment or experience to run such specific assays and would normally send them to a laboratory which increases the time it takes for you to receive a result.

Many that offer 'in-house' testing are normally using a more simplistic semi-quantitative kit (observing a colour change). It generally means the results are far less accurate and only as good as the person conducting the test and understanding the results! With these kits you also normally have to buy all six, when you might just need one or two!

### How much does it cost?

Each kit costs £25.00 – in addition you'll need to cover any cost for the blood collection and postage.

This price covers issuing you with the correct collection tubes for your vet to correctly provide us with the bloods and the processing when returned to us to enable us to provide you with a results report.

Your first order you will be issued with two kits:

- The first is with a **coloured registration form** which indicates you have paid for this kit
- The second is with a **white registration form** which indicates it is a 'spare' kit that has not been pre-paid but can be used for subsequent test if required. This kit when returned will also require outstanding payment to be made.

### Will my vet just collect blood for me?

Yes – if you explain that you have purchased a kit which is to be sent off for analysis to identify progesterone levels, ultimately to identify ovulation for an optimal mating. Because you are not requiring a consultation, most vet nurses are also able to carry out this request at a minimal price.

### Are there other ways to detect ovulation?

There are other methods available however none are as accurate, some rely on a visual interpretations, while others attempt to detect Estrous increate rather than ovulation. Many alternative methods have not supporting clinical evidence and the only method used for artificial insemination would be quantitative progesterone assay.

### I still have a question?

Please feel free to contact your regional representative:

- **East - Cat Liddle**  
Necton, Norfolk  
Tel: 07545 037078  
Email: [east@petmateservices.com](mailto:east@petmateservices.com)
- **South - Sara Lamont**  
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