

## A GUIDE TO URINE SAMPLING

Use a sterile universal container to collect urine. If voided urine is to be examined the initial portion will be contaminated with bacteria from the skin surface and is best avoided. A MID STREAM sample will be more representative of urine from the bladder. Urine may also be collected by catheterisation and this method is recommended if cytological examination is required.

### CYSTOCENTESIS

This procedure is generally under-used in practice. It is very simple and few complications have ever been reported. Urinalysis of a sample taken by cystocentesis is a much more powerful investigative tool than the use of voided urine which is likely to be contaminated with both cells and microorganisms from the lower urogenital tract and from the environment.

- For dogs use a 1-1.5 inch x 21-25 g needle
- For cats use a 1 inch x 21-25 g needle
- Attach a 5-20 ml syringe
  
- If the bladder is full it can often be palpated and the needle directed into the bladder transabdominally with the animal either standing or lying. If the bladder is less obviously palpable the animal may be placed in dorsal recumbency and the needle introduced through the midline (*bitches and cats*) or just lateral to the penis in dogs. The bladder is palpated and immobilised against the ventral abdominal wall with the left hand, and the needle is gently introduced through the abdominal wall with the right hand. In bitches, the needle point should be directed caudodorsally from a point midway between the umbilicus and the vulva towards the base of the tail. In the dog the direction of the needle is similar but it is passed through the abdominal wall just lateral to the os penis.
  
- If no urine is obtained on the first attempt, 1 or 2 more attempts should be made, before postponing the procedure until the bladder has filled a little more. After collection, urine is expelled from the syringe into a sterile container.