



# Bone Marrow Cytology

## Collection protocol:

- Collect using standard techniques with appropriate sedation/anaesthesia/analgesia.
- Preferred sampling sites:
  - Dogs - The iliac crest and humeral head are preferred sites for dogs
  - Larger cats - The iliac crest and proximal femur for large cats
  - Smaller cats or neonates - proximal femur
  - Horses and ruminants - sternal vertebra
- It is always recommended to obtain both a needle aspirate for cytology and core biopsy for histopathology.
- Make several direct smears of the aspirated marrow and place the remainder in an EDTA tube.
- Bone marrow aspirates/biopsies must be interpreted with a concurrent full blood examination (FBE) - please submit EDTA blood. The FBC is included in the bone marrow cytology fee.
- Provide a thorough clinical history and reference to any previous bloodwork that has been submitted.

## Special handling/shipping requirements:

Do not ship cytology specimens with formalin samples. Wrap and bag separately. The formalin fumes prevent cellular uptake of differential stains rendering the slides non-diagnostic.



**Species:**  
All species



**Specimen:**  
Bone marrow  
and peripheral  
blood



**Container:**  
EDTA bone  
marrow, direct  
smears of bone  
marrow, EDTA  
blood (minimum  
2 ml)