# Prepare animals for diagnostic tests and collect samples



#### **Overview**

This standard is about preparing animals for diagnostic tests and collecting samples. This covers the preparation, handling and restraining of the animals and monitoring the animal's welfare.

This standard is suitable for registered veterinary nurses.

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## Performance criteria

ou must be able to:	P1	determine the diagnostic test required by the animal, against available information
	P2	ensure the animal is suitably prepared with respect to diet, fluids, exercise and any special feeding requirements for the test
	P3	ensure the animal is positioned and restrained appropriately, using suitable restraining equipment and methods
	P4	identify the sample collection site correctly and undertake the appropriate preparation procedures
	P5	monitor the animal carefully to detect any potential problems
	P6	check the environmental conditions to suit the needs of the animal and the procedure
	P7	collect, and assist with the collection of, the samples for analysis correctly as requested by the qualified veterinary staff
	P8	minimise the discomfort and stress of the animal wherever possible
	P9	store and label samples accurately in the appropriate containers
	P10	complete the necessary documentation accurately and completely
	P11	assess the potential risks to health and safety in this area of work
	P12	comply with animal health and welfare legislation and codes of practice
	P13	assess the five freedoms of the animal and how they may be addressed or affected whilst in your care
	P14	select and implement appropriate infection control procedures
	P15	maintain your own professional conduct

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## Knowledge and understanding

You need to know ar	าd
understand:	

- K1 the types of conditions that are investigated using diagnostic tests
  K2 how an animal's nutrition, fluid intake and exercise may impact on the results of a test
  K3 the special feeding requirements for certain tests
  K4 how to encourage animals to feel at ease in the clinical environment
  K5 how to position and restrain different types of animal for different type of diagnostic test
- K6 sample site preparation techniques for different tests
- K7 what adjustments to environmental conditions are needed for different types of animal
- K8 why it is important to confirm that the correct sample is being taken
- K9 how to collect the commonly required samples from patients
- K10 how to minimise the discomfort and distress of animals during sampling
- K11 the details required and why it is important to record them in relation to the sample
- K12 how to identify and report any problems that may occur during sample collection
- K13 the principles and key points of relevant health and safety regulations and guidelines
- K14 appropriate infection control measures
- K15 your professional responsibilities as a registered veterinary nurse
- K16 your responsibilities for the health and welfare of animals under current legislation and codes of practice

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