



Technical Bulletin

ACTH Stimulation Testing

Cortrosyn vs ACTH Gel

Despite the huge increase in the cost of Cortrosyn, it is still recommended over any gel available for ACTH stimulation testing. Acthar, which was the only gel ever recommended, is no longer available. Some of the gels on the market do not work in dogs.

In order to keep Cortrosyn costs down, use the specific dose of 5 µg/kg IV - up to the maximum dose of 250 µg (one vial) per dog. Whatever is left over can then be split into aliquots of 25 µg or 50 µg using small plastic syringes. Normally 1 ml of sterile physiologic saline is used as diluent. If so, 25 µg would be 100 µl or 0.1 ml and 50 µg would be 200 µl or 0.2 ml. The aliquots can then be frozen for up to 6 months with no loss of activity as long as they are not thawed and refrozen.

Please be reminded that we no longer offer this item through our Supply Department.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:
Dr. Faye Sturtevant, Medical Director
Phoenix Central Laboratory 1-800-347-0043