

Quick Tips – From the ER

Sampling Catheters:

Here at PESCM, we've found sampling catheters helpful for those patients who: 1) need repeated blood draws (e.g. blood glucose curves); 2) seem to blow basic peripheral catheters easily; or, 3) have a higher risk of thrombosis.

For ease of use, we often feed sampling catheters through a standard peripheral IV catheter placed in the hind limb (utilizing the lateral saphenous vein for dogs and the femoral vein for cats).

For cats: Place a standard 20 gauge IV catheter, then feed a 22 ga. BD Intracath through the catheter hub of the 20 gauge catheter. For dogs: Place a standard 16 gauge IV catheter, then feed a 19 ga. BD Intracath through the catheter hub of the 16 gauge catheter.

To draw blood (3 syringe method): Draw 0.5 ml of hep. saline into a 12 ml syringe. Withdraw approximately 8 ml of blood from the catheter and set this syringe aside. Now pull your desired sample volume with another syringe. Replace the 8 ml of blood that you removed and follow with a normal hep. saline flush.

Helpful Hint: Even after using the above procedure you may occasionally obtain a falsely low pcv/tp due to hemodilution. Thus, if you see a value that appears lower than expected, consider re-checking this via direct venipuncture.



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*We hope you found this information helpful,
The team of PESCM*