

OVERNIGHT PICKUPS HAVE BEGUN!

VETPATH Laboratory Services has introduced an additional courier pick up for week-day overnight deliveries using locked boxes around the metropolitan area. The collection is performed by the Western Diagnostic Courier Service with samples being delivered to VETPATH early the next morning. Depending on the sample, your results will be available earlier in the day.

The locked boxes have been placed at veterinary clinics throughout Perth. The cut-off time for these boxes is **6:45pm**. If samples are dropped off, VETPATH must be notified by this time in order for the sample to be collected. A key to the boxes will be held at the clinic where the box is located and a copy can be provided to those surrounding clinics using this service. The keys for the locked boxes are identical.

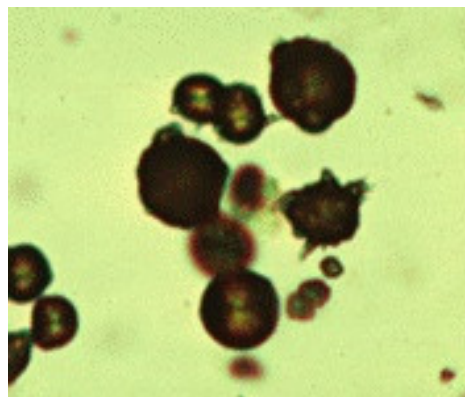
The locations of the locked boxes are:

Joondalup Central Veterinary Hosp
Unit 2/1 Winton Rd, Joondalup
Midland Veterinary Hospital
231 Morrison Rd,
East Fremantle Veterinary Clinic
23 May St, East Fremantle

Melville Animal Hospital
34 Rome Rd, Melville
Cottesloe Animal Hospital
597 Stirling Hwy
Subiaco Veterinary Clinic
107 Railway Rd, Subiaco
Larkhill Small Animal Hospital
774 Mandurah rd, Port Kennedy
Ranford Veterinary Hospital
1 Wilfred Rd, Canning Vale
Morley Vet Centre
20 Rudloc Rd, Morley
Balcatta Veterinary Hospital
59 Erindale Rd, Balcatta
Bullcreek Veterinary Hospital
81 Wheatley Dr, Bullcreek

If you have any questions regarding the locked boxes, please contact the Laboratory manager on 9259 3666.

What crystal is this?

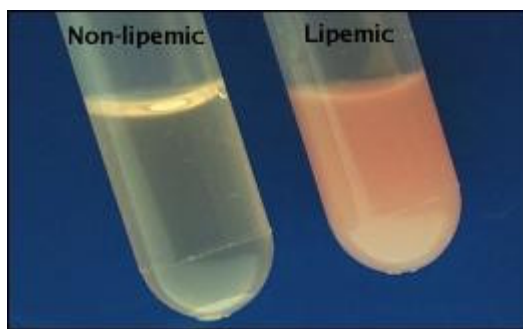


Source:
<http://diaglab.vet.cornell.edu/clinpath/modules/UA-SED/crystal1.htm>

The answer is over the page.....

What is “lipoclearing” and why do we do it?

Lipaemic samples contain increased concentrations of triglycerides and have a white, turbid appearance. Lipaemia can occur post-prandially, however can also occur with pancreatitis, diabetic ketoacidosis, hypothyroidism, hepatic disease or primary lipid disorders (for example in Miniature Schnauzers).



Lipaemia can cause inaccurate results for several tests by affecting the analytic methods. Calcium, phosphorus, protein concentrations and electrolytes can be adversely affected by lipaemia. To reduce the effect of lipaemia, samples can be treated with LipoClear (called “lipoclearing”). The LipoClear solution removes lipoproteins from lipaemic samples, leaving clear serum for processing. This is not performed for cholesterol and triglyceride measurement. Lipoclearing can adversely affect serum bile acid concentrations however, as bile acids are separated with the lipid after centrifugation.

The cost for lipoclearing is \$13.50 and the laboratory will always contact your practice for permission before proceeding.

Transporting fluids

VETPATH Laboratory Services is frequently asked about the best way to transport body fluids to the laboratory. The answer to this question depends somewhat on the amount of fluid being submitted. However, a general guideline is to **split** the fluid into two tubes; an EDTA tube and a plain clotted (serum) tube. EDTA tubes provide greater cell preservation and help prevent clotting of blood or very viscous samples. Unfortunately, EDTA is bacteriostatic and therefore the plain clotted tube is needed for culture.

In addition, unless concentration of the sample is essential (for example CSF), a freshly made smear is also very valuable for cytological evaluation.

The crystals are

Ammonium biurate (or urate).

Ammonium biurate crystals appear as brown or yellow-brown spherical bodies with irregular protrusions (“thorn apples”). They can appear in urine at any pH, they are usually formed in neutral to alkaline urine.

Ammonium biurate are fairly common in dogs and cats with congenital or acquired portal vascular anomalies, with or without concurrent urate uroliths. They can also be seen in normal Dalmatians and Bulldogs. These breeds are predisposed to urate urolithiasis. Very rarely, ammonium biurate crystals can appear in the urine of apparently normal dogs and cats.