

SERUM PREPARATION

- Collect whole blood using an appropriate technique and transfer to a sterile microcentrifuge (e.g. Eppendorf) tube. Approximately 1/3 of whole blood volume is serum; therefore collecting 300µl whole blood is required to reach a final volume of 100µl serum.
- After collection of the whole blood, allow the blood to clot by leaving it undisturbed at room temperature. This may take up to one hour, or longer. Check the blood has clotted by inverting the tube.
- Remove the clot by centrifuging tubes at 1,000-2,000 x g or 6,000 rpm for 10 minutes. This should preferably be performed in a refrigerated centrifuge but a regular centrifuge will suffice.
- The resulting supernatant is designated **serum**, it should be clear to yellowish in colour, not red. Samples which are haemolysed (red in colour) can invalidate some tests.
- Immediately transfer the serum into a clean, labelled microcentrifuge tube using a pipette.
- If serum are pooled to make a single sample, only TWO sera are to be pooled. Pooled sera should also be from the same strain of animal and housed in the same area. The volumes from each animal should be equal.
- If samples are collected over a prolonged period, freeze, store (at -20°C) and transport frozen. Ensure there is enough packing material or ice to prevent samples from thawing en route.
- Please label all tubes clearly with a waterproof permanent marker, and have it correspond to the information submitted in CORA.

Any questions? Please contact the lab on (08) 8128 4617.